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THE TIMES

No 63,899

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27 1990

Overseas Edition

35p

IAN STEWART

Bureaucrat to be Gorbachev's deputy

Ryzhkov heart attack adds to Soviet turmoil

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Gorbachev yesterday secured most, but not all, of the powers he wants to rebuild his administration and promptly named a communist bureaucrat as his vice-president.

The political turmoil caused by the resignation of the foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, was compounded when the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, suffered a heart attack that is expected to precipitate his retirement.

Mr Ryzhkov was reported to have collapsed after a meeting of republic leaders and central government ministers on Tuesday evening, and Mr Gorbachev told the Congress of People's Deputies yesterday that his life was not in danger.

Gennadi Yanayev, who was later nominated as vice-president, told a news conference that "psychological pressure" had contributed to the prime minister's illness, and there were reports that his collapse came after a confrontation with the Russian president, Boris Yeltsin, at the meeting to discuss next year's budget. Unconfirmed reports sug-

gested that Mr Gorbachev may unexpectedly have swung towards Mr Yeltsin's demands for devolution of economic powers to the republics in a final attempt to keep the Soviet Union together.

The prime minister has been the subject of virulent criticism for his preferred gender route to reform, but survived attempts to force his resignation. Mr Gorbachev had not, however, indicated whether he would hold any post in the new cabinet.

Yesterday, Mr Gorbachev told the congress: "Last night, Nikolai Ivanovich had a heart seizure, a heart attack. He is in hospital. At the moment there is no threat to his life."

Mr Gorbachev went on to win agreement for the subordination of the government directly to the president, the creation of a national security council, a control commission, and an independent court to adjudicate in economic disputes. His plans for a state inspection commission to make sure central laws and directives were carried out were, however, rejected.

Clauses defining the composition of the revamped federation council and the functions of the vice-president also failed to gain the required two-thirds majority.

This means the precise role Mr Yanayev will play remains unclear, although it seems likely that he will be closely involved in tackling ethnic conflicts across the country.

The scale of that problem and the strife in the Baltic republics seeking independence was again underlined at the congress when the commander of the Soviet Baltic fleet said that relations between the armed forces and local officials had reached flashpoint. "The extremists are creating conditions so that servicemen will have to use arms to defend their families and children," Admiral Vitaly Ivanov said. "How can we remain calm when molotov cocktails are being thrown from passing cars, when shots are fired from cars at our guards? These are our children against whom weapons are being used."

His remarks renewed fears that force would be used against nationalists in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, where the Soviet troops are regarded as an occupying force. Nikolai Medvedev, a deputy from Lithuania, told reporters that

concerted attacks on the Baltic republics were part of a campaign to win approval for stronger executive powers for Mr Gorbachev. "This was done deliberately to ease passage of the constitutional amendments. It could be used to demand the installation of presidential rule."

Mr Yanayev insisted in congress, however, that Mr Gorbachev would not abuse his new powers. "If anybody tries to suggest to me that Gorbachev is keeping some political monster in the shadows and with its help will introduce some draconian order, then I say this is nonsense." He and the president shared a refusal to use force. "My main fight will be against a political bacchanalia and vandalism, but by using democratic means, not by repression."

Mr Yanayev, a 53-year-old Russian, told the parliament: "I am a convinced communist to the depths of my soul", and for some, his nomination smacked of the old party apparatus. A career party official, he joined the secretariat of the party's central committee in July after resigning as head of the official trade union movement.

His nomination disappointed reformists who had hoped that Mr Shevardnadze, Mr Gorbachev's first choice, might return to the government. Some delegates suggested that this was a compromise appointment intended to silence criticism from conservatives; others that Mr Gorbachev was simply showing his true colours as a reluctant reformer.

By STAFF REPORTERS

RAIN storms in Towns, Cwyd, where surge tides wrecked 2,800 homes last February, yesterday threatened to drive families from their homes for the second time in a year.

There were blizzards in the Scottish mountains, snow on high ground and flooding in many other parts of Britain. In the Midlands, strong winds broke power cables, leaving more than 3,000 homes without electricity in Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire.

The London Weather Centre said last night that conditions could be worse today.

A climber in the Cairngorms was badly injured when he fell 400ft after being hit by an avalanche on Christmas day. David Wharton, aged 27, of Derby, spent 24 hours on Braeriach, Britain's third highest mountain, before being spotted by an RAF mountain rescue team.

Police in Cumbria and south-west Scotland said conditions were atrocious after rivers burst their banks.

In Northern Ireland, gusting winds of more than 60mph closed the Foyle bridge in Londonderry and brought down power lines in Tyrone, Armagh and Fermanagh.

The Duke of Edinburgh's pheasant shoot at Sandringham, Norfolk, was called off, but about 1,000 people turned up at Seaburn beach, Sunderland, for the Boxing Day charity dip.

Most major sports fixtures went ahead, although eight third and fourth division soccer matches were cancelled.

Photographs, page 3

Scottish rescue, page 3

Company-car spy to curb aggressive drivers

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

AGGRESSIVE motorists among Britain's three million company car drivers could have their excesses curbed by a "spy in the cab" that records every detail of the speed and movement of their cars.

An aircraft-style black box about the size of a video recorder can be plugged into a car's electronics, where it stores information for up to six weeks before being retrieved for study on the company computer. The device could be used to check on every aspect of driving, such as when a driver sets off on a journey and how fast he travels.

Details about the system are being dispensed by results that show large cuts in accident rates and increased fuel economy in vehicles fitted with

the device. Since fitting the equipment one fleet, which had suffered a series of accidents including two fatalities, has not suffered a crash in which blame is attached to its drivers.

John Huish, marketing manager of ICS Black Box of Cardiff, which supplies the equipment, said motorists who knew their movements were recorded drove with more care. "The positive side is that companies can know exactly how best to use their vehicles, and the savings identified to both vehicles and employees have proved quite valuable."

The computer company ICL has fitted black boxes to 200 vans driven by its customer-service representatives. ICL has not suffered a blameworthy accident since installing the devices and its fuel bill has dropped by 10 per cent. Mid-Glamor-

gan county council spent £8,000 on black boxes for commercial vehicles and made savings of £95,000. Mr Huish said. Although use of the video recorder is widespread on the Continent it has yet to make an impact in Britain.

The system is being introduced to Britain as firms face escalating costs because of higher fuel prices, insurance premiums and garage maintenance costs because of crash repairs. The black box's contribution to safety by curbing careless drivers will encourage companies, particularly in view of a recent survey by Callup for General Accident, the motor insurer.

The survey painted a disturbing picture of the company car driver as weaving through traffic at speed and most likely to be involved in an accident or "scrape". Four in ten

drink and drive while more than half of nearly 500 company drivers interviewed admitted to regularly exceeding the motorway speed limit by over 10mph, although the figure rose to 61 per cent among sales representatives. Of the company drivers interviewed 45 per cent believed it was "acceptable" to drive at up to 20mph over the speed limit on motorways, and 15 per cent of business drivers admitted they drove too close to the car in front.

The consequences were that a third of company car drivers had accidents in the past three years.

• The car industry faces a future "clouded with uncertainty", according to the January edition *Glass's Guide*. New car sales will fall below two million and there appear to be "many problems and few solutions", it says.



Galloping into the record books: Britain's favourite racehorse, Desert Orchid, defied his age — the grey will be 12 next week — to achieve a record fourth success in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Kempton Park yesterday. He won by 12 lengths. Reports, pages 24, 25

Towyn is lashed by wind and rain again

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

COMPULSORY call-up papers for reservists are to be issued tomorrow if insufficient numbers of volunteers turn up for Gulf duty today.

Call-up papers for thousands of reservists have been printed and will be posted tomorrow, sources said yesterday.

The decision to go for compulsory call-up will be taken by Tom King, the defence secretary, this evening after the final batch of volunteers has been assessed.

The development came as Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière, commander of the British forces in the Gulf, gave a warning that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq could attack the allies before the January 15 United Nations deadline for him to quit Kuwait or face military action.

Sir Peter said on BBC television: "He will do some-thing to take the initiative and if he decides he is going down the military road, he will try to issue a military initiative and that initiative could well come before January 15. So there is nothing sacrosanct about January 15 in military terms."

Mr King had called for 1,500 volunteers but so far only about 500 have come forward. Volunteers, mostly those with medical qualifications, will arrive at Aldershot today for processing.

Many others said they would join up if their employers guaranteed them their jobs back after the Gulf conflict was over. Section 10 of the Reserve Forces Act was brought into effect to give volunteers that guarantee.

There have been discussions between the defence ministry and health department to ensure that all doctors

Thousands of reservists face call-up for Gulf

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

and nurses sent to the Gulf are guaranteed jobs on their return and that their civilian pay rates are maintained.

General Sir Robert Pascoe, the Adjutant General, will be at the Royal Army Medical Corps centre at Keighley barracks, Aldershot, today to welcome volunteers. Each will receive a call-out "bounty" of £200 and undergo preliminary medical checks before being formally enlisted as regular soldiers under the act. The men and women will then go home on leave until refresher training early next month.

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

IRAN'S spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, refused yesterday to lift the religious edict, or *fatwa*, calling for the death of Salman Rushdie, in spite of the novelist's public affirmation of the Muslim faith. Some British Muslims had called for the death threat to be lifted.

Mr Rushdie, whose novel, *The Satanic Verses*, enraged Muslims and strained relations between the British government and Iran, has announced that he will oppose the publication of his book in paperback. The best-selling novel has been translated into 15 languages.

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Ayatollah says death order on Rushdie can never be revoked

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE death order against Salman Rushdie will remain in force even if he becomes the most pious man of his time, Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, said yesterday as leading British Muslims prepared to meet tomorrow to discuss the author's disavowal of statements in his book *The Satanic Verses*.

The Ayatollah refused to withdraw the *fatwa* (religious decree) pronounced against the author's life, despite Mr Rushdie's undertaking not to publish a paperback edition of his novel.

Meanwhile, a friend of the author cast doubt on a claim by a leading British Muslim that Rushdie had converted to Islam, saying that he had merely affirmed the Islamic faith.

In a statement on Tehran Radio, Ayatollah Khamenei said: "As the Imam (the late Ayatollah

Khomeini) said, the Islamic decree about the author of *The Satanic Verses* remains unchanged even if he repents and becomes the most pious man of his time." He said that "certain pseudo-Muslim persons" had helped in the author's repentance but it would not change the divine ruling which was issued in 1989.

"The Imam's edict ... and the Muslims' commitment to implement it are bearing their first fruits on the scene of confrontation between Islam and world infidelity. Western arrogance, which had attacked the sanctities of a billion Muslims as a prelude to degrade Muslims and the Islamic renaissance in the world, has been forced to retreat in disgrace."

The Ayatollah added: "God willing, with the continued resistance of Muslims of the world, no one will henceforth dare insult

the exalted Prophet of Islam and Islamic sanctities."

Mr Rushdie's disavowal came after a Christmas eve meeting with Muhammad Ali Malouf, Egyptian minister for *wazia* (religious endowments), and other senior Muslim figures.

The author sanctioned a statement that said he accepted there was no God but Allah and that Muhammad was his last prophet. He said he did not agree with any statement in his novel uttered by any of the characters who insult the Islamic faith. He also undertook not to publish the paperback edition of *The Satanic Verses* or to permit further translations.

"I will continue to work for a better understanding of Islam in the world, as I have always attempted to do in the past."

Dr Hesham el-Essawy, chairman of the Islamic Society for the Promotion of Religious Tolerance, sent a telegram to

Ayatollah Khamenei suggesting that the *fatwa* be withdrawn. Dr el-Essawy has also invited the Ayatollah to send a religious delegation to meet the author.

Dr el-Essawy, who helped to bring about the public disavowal on Monday, said *Sharia*, or Islamic law, stipulated that a man who embraced or converted to Islam be totally forgiven. Dr el-Essawy said: "I have been informed that the reaction in the Arab and Egyptian world is almost ecstatic. The act of his conversion means that according to Islamic law his blood becomes sacrosanct and the *fatwa* becomes annulled. That means the slate is wiped clean. Salman Rushdie should be forgiven and should not be accountable for anything he has done before his conversion."

He added: "I hope Khamenei will be brave enough to accept that the Islamic *Sharia* law should take precedence over

Khomeini's *fatwa*, that closing the door of repentance is totally against the merciful nature of Islam and totally against the Koran."

He accused the Ayatollah of blasphemy in saying that the *fatwa* would always remain in force. "This assumes Khamenei is God and he is not. Only God can close the door that God opens."

However, Frances de Souza, director of the Article 19 human rights group which has forged close links with the author, yesterday doubted whether the author had suddenly become a devout Muslim. "He has talked about embracing the religion but not about converting. Conversion is not a word he has used. I think Salman feels very strongly that he has not necessarily changed his position."

"Salman and I talked about this at length over the weekend.

He feels that there is undoubtedly a mystery to the origin of man. If one chooses to call that mystery God, so be it. He still calls it a mystery. He accepts the historical fact that Muhammad was a prophet, that he was a prophet of Allah. He has always accepted that the prophet was a prophet."

In Tehran, the hard-line newspaper *Jomhuri Eslami* said Rushdie should prepare himself for a brave death. "If Rushdie's repentance and his return to Islam is seen as a sign of his braveness, naturally it is necessary that he shows greater braveness and prepares himself for death."

"If Rushdie could not live bravely, perhaps it would be befitting that he dies bravely by welcoming the execution of the divine edict ... He will die anyway, but he will be better off to choose his way to eternal salvation courageously before a

"Indeed, it is his religious duty to do so."

TED BATH

Tory refuses to help MPs' study of Iraqi supergun allegations

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

A CONSERVATIVE MP has refused to appear before a Commons enquiry for questioning about the manufacture of steel tubes for an Iraqi supergun.

Sir Hal Miller, MP for Bromsgrove, has taken the rare step of turning down a request by a Commons select committee to explain allegations he made in the Commons in April that government officials ignored his warnings about a British firm breaking the arms embargo against Iraq.

The Commons trade and industry committee will decide later in the investigation whether to press Sir Hal to appear before it. Commons officials believe, however, that there are few sanctions available to select committees to compel reluctant backbench MPs to give evidence, although ministers and senior civil servants can be ordered to appear.

Sir Hal said yesterday: "I do not see what good it will do. I have no wish to embarrass the government. The committee's enquiry is singularly ill-timed when conflict is about to break out in the Gulf. I see no point in it and want no part of it."

Sir Hal alleged in the Commons last spring that he had alerted trade, defence and security service officials two years ago to Iraqi orders placed with a Midlands forgings company, Walter Somers. However, he has now told the committee that he has no fresh information since prosecutions against two businessmen have been dropped, and so does not intend to appear. His only interest, he said, was to see Peter Mitchell, managing director of Walter Somers, cleared of charges relating to the order.

Last April, the committee announced an investigation into



Sir Hal says that enquiry by committee is ill-timed

allegations that British firms were not stopped by officials of the trade and industry department from breaching the arms embargo by making parts for the supergun for export to Iraq. The decision followed the seizure by customs officers at Teesside, Middlesbrough, of eight giant steel forgings, later discovered to be part of a supergun.

However, the MP's immediately complied with a personal request from the then trade and industry secretary, Nicholas Ridley, to shelve the enquiry while prosecutions by Customs and Excise were pending. All charges against Mr Mitchell and Christopher Cowley, a metallurgist, of illegally exporting arms were dropped last month.

Kenneth Warren, the committee chairman, had hoped to hold a brief investigation into the handing of the export licence. However, the MPs are now predicting that the enquiry could be the biggest this parliament because of the conflicting written evidence received from officials and the firms involved in the contracts.

The enquiry has been widened

to gather evidence of how government officials interpreted the international arms embargo against Iraq when considering the export of equipment during the nine-year Iran-Iraq war. The committee wants to find out the closeness of links between trade and customs officials when policing the embargo and checking on the manufacture in Britain of equipment that might have been intended for military use.

The committee also wants to know if and when Downing Street officials were told by customs officials of their fears that tubes and equipment made in Britain were meant for the Iraqi supergun.

Mr Ridley and the present trade secretary, Peter Lilley, will be questioned by the committee early next year.

Trade, customs and defence officials are expected to be called to give evidence together with executives of Sheffield Forgemasters, an engineering steelmaker, and Walter Somers.

The MPs already have a substantial file of written evidence, including details of exports to Iraq, since Britain signed the arms embargo six years ago.

Wage procedure seen as employment hope

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

CO-ORDINATED wage bargaining is the only way to avoid a return to mass unemployment in Britain, according to a report published today.

The report by the pressure group Campaign for Work comes after the biggest monthly rise in unemployment for a decade. Figures released by the government showed unemployment rose by more than 57,000 in November.

Campaign for Work says that although unemployment heading back towards two million is making it once again a political issue, the political parties have no new ideas on how to solve the problem.

While joining the European exchange-rate mechanism at a lower rate would have been better, the campaign says, unemployment looks inevitable under present policies because Britain is crushed between annual pay growth of 10 per cent — double that of Germany — and a virtually fixed exchange rate.

The report suggests an alternative: greater co-ordination of

wage bargaining, with pay settlements determined in an open and well-understood way. This approach has been suggested by union leaders but has been rejected by the government as a return to old-style 1970s corporatism and incomes policy.

The report says, however, that there would be no going rate for settlements. Instead, companies could reflect productivity and labour shortages in their pay awards while co-ordinated bargaining would provide "a sustainable spine around which pay increases can settle".

ERM entry offers a real opportunity for change in British wage bargaining by offering the discipline to resist a wage-price spiral and also a strong incentive to adopt European pay-bargaining structures, the report says. While there are obstacles to more co-ordinated bargaining, such as the absence of strong, centralised employer organisation, it suggests that membership of such bodies could be made compulsory in return for other concessions.

The proportion of university funds from outside sources rose

Industry cash support to universities 6.3%

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES derived only 6.3 per cent of their income from industry, and polytechnics much less, in 1987-1988, according to a study carried out for the trade and industry department.

Some universities now record a majority of income as coming from sources other than block grants, but much of it is from other government sources such as research councils. The survey suggests that the picture is less buoyant than thought.

Of almost £200 million contributed by industry to higher education, three-quarters consisted of payment for teaching and research. The rest came in donations in cash or kind.

Gareth Williams and Cari Loder, of the London University Institute of Education, found that cuts in higher education budgets and government schemes which demanded industrial partnerships had encouraged institutions to seek more private funding.

The proportion of university funds from outside sources rose

sharply in the 1980s. Industry's contribution might have been close to £225 million when royalties and consultancy fees were included, the researchers estimate.

Professor Williams and Dr Loder expect the polytechnic total of only £22 million from industry to have risen significantly since 1987-1988 because of polytechnics' subsequent independence from local authorities.

In a summary they forecast further increases for both sectors in the 1990s.

• The TUC today claims that a growing shortage of teachers in certain subjects will thwart full implementation of the National Curriculum and calls for Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to survey supply and demand in the profession (Tim Jones writes).

Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, has written to Mr Clarke saying that Britain spends a lower proportion of national income on education than Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland and The Netherlands.

IRA hold to Christmas bomb truce

Against the expectations of the police and Army, the IRA's three-day Christmas ceasefire in Northern Ireland appeared to be holding last night with no breaches reported (Bob Rodwell writes).

The truce, announced through the Dublin offices of Sinn Fein on Sunday, was due to expire at midnight last night, when it was predicted that the IRA's full-scale bomb-and-bullet campaign would be resumed.

The Army and the RUC remained on full alert during the ceasefire, conditioned never to take the IRA's promises at face value, but no incidents were reported throughout the province.

Hopes that the truce, the first officially declared cessation, however temporary, of IRA operations for 16 years, could become permanent were expressed in Christmas Day sermons by several leading churchmen, including the two Archbishops of Armagh, the Anglican Primate of All Ireland, Dr Cahal Daly.

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World chess

PROMPT action by police and fire crews saved the capital from disaster yesterday, charged with an arson attack on a shop on Christmas day. Steven McNeirin, aged 25, of no fixed address, was also accused of breaking into and stealing from the shoe shop. On Christmas eve, a court was told he had set fire to a car while on bail for another attack.

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• The TUC today claims that a growing shortage of teachers in certain subjects will thwart full implementation of the National Curriculum and calls for Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, to survey supply and demand in the profession (Tim Jones writes).

DPP seeks greater advocacy rights for Crown solicitors

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ALLAN Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, is to press for solicitors in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to be allowed to take cases in the crown court under the new machinery being set up to implement the government's legal reforms.

The move will trigger a new debate between the two branches of the legal profession over the breaking of the Bar's monopoly of rights of audience in the higher courts. Only members of the Bar have the right to appear in the crown court and the CPS has to brief barristers in private practice. Last year, this cost nearly £50 million.

Under the Courts and Legal

Services Act 1990, however, solicitors (and others) can apply to be granted the right to take cases in the higher courts, subject to adequate training and codes of conduct.

Mr Green has now made clear that he wants CPS lawyers to be included in the application being prepared by the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, for wider advocacy rights for solicitors.

There are about 1,500 lawyers in the service; two-thirds are solicitors and the remainder are barristers.

"I am most anxious," Mr Green said, "to ensure that experienced crown prosecutors secure the right to present appropriate cases in the crown court in future."

If the Law Society application is successful, CPS solicitors would have crown court advocacy rights, but the barristers would not. The rights are therefore likely to be extended to include them.

The service said: "To undertake rights of audience in the CPS you must be a fully qualified solicitor or barrister. Our lawyers gain so much experience daily in the courts that it would be wrong to treat them differently from other members of their professional body."

Applications for rights of audience in the higher courts must be submitted to the Lord Chancellor's new advisory committee by April. The Law Society application is likely to face fierce opposition from the Bar, which disagrees with the granting of such rights to barristers who are employed and are not at the independent Bar.

A Bar Council official observed: "If you think last year (covering the passage of the Bill) was fun, the next few years will be much greater."

The Bar is expected to try to ensure that solicitor-advocates are subject to the same rules as barristers; in particular the Bar wants solicitors to be bound by the cab-rank rule (that cases must be taken in strict rotation). The Bar is also likely to argue that solicitors

Green: CPS staff included in Law Society application



EC urged to outlaw racial discrimination

By OUR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A JOINT move to enable victims of alleged racial discrimination law in the UK for more than 20 years, European member states to bring a case to court is being made by the Law Society and the Bar.

Leaders of the two professional bodies have written to the European Commission saying that European community law should outlaw racial discrimination. They want a European community directive requiring members to legislate on the elimination of racial discrimination.

They also say that the European Convention on Human Rights should be amended to include a primary right to bring a case to the European Court of Justice on the grounds of racial discrimination alone. The letter points out that although there has

been statutory racial discrimination law in the UK for more than 20 years, European legislation does not contain similar rights.

Peter Cresswell, QC, chairman of the Bar Council, said: "European legislation should give members of ethnic minority groups the same level of legal protection as they receive in this country. I hope that with the support of both branches of the legal profession a much needed change will be brought about."

Tony Holland, president of the Law Society, said: "Racial discrimination is one of the scourges of our time. I hope that by using the experience of the legal remedies in this country we can contribute to eliminating racial discrimination in all member states."

World chess match saved for London

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

PROMPT action by supporters of chess in London has saved for the capital the all-British qualifying match for the next world championship after the collapse of arrangements for it to be held in Indonesia.

The eight-game match between Nigel Short and Jon Speelman will start in London on January 27, although the pairing together of the two British contenders so early in the championship remains controversial.

The rescue operation, arranged in the few days before Christmas, comes as the world championship final between Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov nears its close in Lyons, and follows the Indonesians' withdrawal from the next cycle of qualification tournaments.

Seven matches between the world's top 14 grandmasters (apart from the two Lyons finalists) had been planned to start simultaneously at the end of January in Jakarta. Fide, the world chess federation, had announced firm dates, prize funds and pairings for the matches, which were to start the process for deciding the 1993 world title challenger.

A week ago this changed dramatically, when the pros-

pective Jakarta organisers pulled the plug on the undertaking because of an unexpected evaporation of funds, and the seven matches of the qualifying cycle were abandoned.

The host for the match rearranged for London is Watson Farley and Williams, the City solicitors who for three years have supported a tournament to foster young British talent. The match will take place at the firm's premises.

Duncan Lawrie, the merchant bank that has sponsored the British Olympic team, has put up a £5,000 winner's purse, the amount stipulated by the world fed-

eration. All other costs will be borne by a consortium of Leigh Interests, the Chelsea arts club and the British Chess Federation.

The rescue illustrates the strength of British chess and the loyalty of its backers. In the chess Olympics of 1984 and 1986 the English team won silver medals, behind the Soviet Union. In 1988 and 1990, England shared second position behind the Soviet Union and the US.

In the coming contest, both Short and Speelman have diehard supporters. Short's tournament record is generally superior, and he has consistently achieved a higher international ranking.

Speciman, though, has an excellent score in recent games against Short and is the only English player in organised British competitions to have reached the world semi-final.

The arrangements end frustration that the two were having to play so far from home, but not concern over the pitting against each other of the two leading British grandmasters. Apart from the Soviet Union, England is the only country with more than one player in the qualifying competition.

The speed with which the London leg has been arranged is emphasised by the fact that several other matches lack a venue.

The qualifier between Korchnoi (Switzerland) and Sax (Hungary) has been secured in the Dutch town of Wijk aan Zee for the end of January, and those between Anand (India) and Yudasin (Soviet Union) and Gelfand (Soviet Union) and Nikolic (Yugoslavia) will be played in India and Yugoslavia, but there is no clue to venues for matches between Timman (Netherlands) and Hubner (Germany), Ivanchuk and Dreew, and Yusupov and Dolmatov, all of the Soviet Union.

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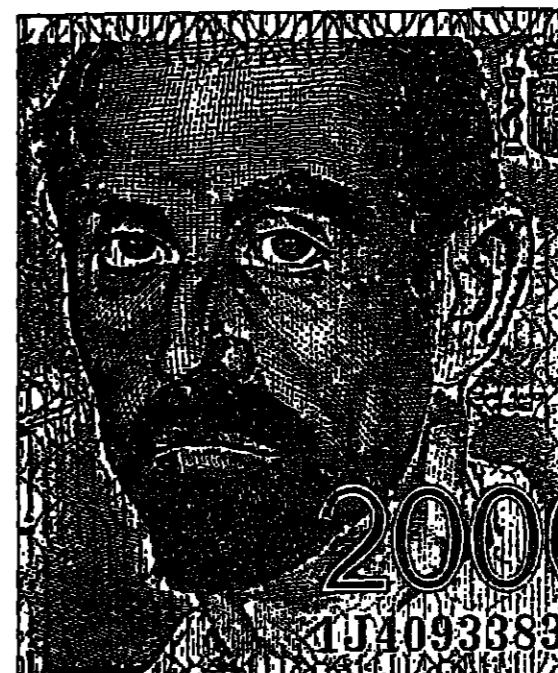
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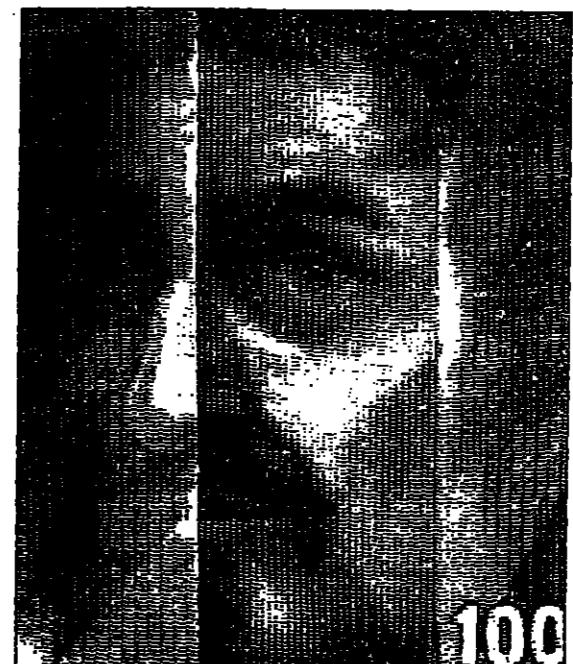
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Killings bring proposals to boost security in hospitals

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to protect hospital patients and health service staff from violent attacks are announced today by the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts.

The proposals were prompted by the murder of two consultant plastic surgeons in Pinderfields hospital, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, last month, and by evidence of increasing numbers of assaults within the health service.

Crime prevention experts will help to improve hospital security and electronic surveillance equipment is likely

Meningitis vaccines to be tested

Sean Baker, aged two months, will today become the first baby to be tested with a new vaccine against meningitis. The baby, from Churchdown, Gloucestershire, is one of 320 infants taking part in the health district's trial of four vaccines.

The babies will be given injections every three months and their immunity against the potentially fatal disease will be tested in a year. The vaccines are already in use in Finland, Canada and the United States.

Hunt for teenager

Police are searching for Ahmed Shahpall, aged 16, who disappeared on Christmas day after saying he was going to clear leaves. They fear he may have drowned in the swollen river running through the garden in Balsall Heath, Birmingham.

Officer accused

A detective inspector faces a disciplinary enquiry after claims that he used abusive language at a Christmas party at Doncaster police station attended by many officers and their families.

Murder charge

Robert Warden, aged 47, of Woking, Surrey, was remanded in custody accused of murdering Kenneth MacLean, aged 26, after a brawl in a public house in the town on Christmas eve.

Portfolio winners

Two readers shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Douglas Littlewood, of Barnhurst, Kent, and John Mullen, of Ulceby, South Humberside, each receive £1,000.

British Jews prepare their defences against an attack by missionaries

THE Decade of Evangelism has inspired Christians throughout Britain with renewed faith in the Gospel and the Word of Jesus Christ. With missionary zeal, evangelicals are working on plans to "mobilise the retired", and to attract the young on housing estates with Christian roadshows.

The decade backed by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist and other leading churches, has, however, invoked fears among non-Christians specifically among the Jews. Rabbi Samuel Arkush, Midlands director of Lubavitch, a Jewish educational organisation, heads Operation Judaism, a project sponsored by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the office of the Chief Rabbi, and the Lubavitch Foundation, to defend the Jewish community against "missionary attack".

Rabbi Arkush called on Christian evangelists to ease off in their attempts to convert Jews to Christianity. He said: "There are unfortunately a large number of missionary organisations targeting just Jewish people. The Jewish community is extremely fearful. It is causing a lot of hurt and upset and is ruining relationships which have been formed between the communities. The whole of the evangelical establishment is moving forward to gain more adherents to Christianity, which is fair enough. We do not object to that. What we do object to is that there are a number of mainstream evangelical groups specifically targeting Jews."

He said that as a result some Jews were receiving psychiatric help. Some evangelists were over-zealous in convincing Jews that they would be sentencing themselves to et-

er to be more widely introduced. Home Office advisers, police, security specialists and health service managers will attend a seminar arranged by the association and Crime Concern, a charity that receives government funding in February.

Philip Hunt, director of the association, said yesterday:

"The recent spate of attacks on hospital premises highlights the importance of greater vigilance within the health service. We want the NHS to have the most modern techniques and expertise to ensure the safety of patients and staff."

Sohail Hussain, a senior executive of Crime Concern, said: "We believe it is possible to provide much better protection without turning hospitals into fortresses. Closed-circuit television cameras, locks and bolts are not enough in themselves."

"Physical violence towards health service workers and patients is at a disturbingly high level and there is also a huge amount of crime against NHS property."

"We want to involve hospital managers, staff, patients and health service unions in recognising and responding to the problems they may face."

A survey two years ago by the Health and Safety Executive showed that, in 12 months, almost 2,700 nurses, 650 ambulance staff and 200 doctors in five health authorities had been assaulted at work.

Violence is most common in psychiatric hospitals and in the accident and emergency departments of general hospitals, where many patients with alcohol-related injuries are admitted.

• Dentists will desert the health service for private practice if the government insists on retaining new contracts, the General Dental Practitioners' Association said yesterday. Low morale among members signalled a gloomy prospect for the new year.

Michael Watson, the association's secretary, said: "This is not just a matter of concern to dentists but to patients as well. The prospect of higher NHS charges and fewer dentists able to accept NHS patients."

The dentists say that the new contracts mean the service will be underfunded and that patients could end up paying between 85 per cent and 90 per cent of the cost of treatment. They also say the deal will mean that little preventive work will be done and that there will be less treatment for children.

The chip is being created by Echelon Corporation of Palo Alto, California, which was set up by Mike Markula, a co-founder of Apple Computers who is regarded as something of a guru in the computing world. According to the company, light bulbs and switches that are individually controlled by a neuron chip may soon be for sale.

These will be capable of communicating with thousands of other neuron chips throughout a home, in appliances from air conditioning

By WILLIAM CASH

BEFORE going away over Christmas many home owners will have taken elaborate precautions to safeguard their treasured possessions. However, a new breed of burglar is abroad in search of bounty for which bank vaults and safes offer no protection.

Victims can return to find the very fabric of their houses missing after thieves have carried off period chimney pieces, mahogany banisters, cast-iron spiral staircases, hand-dyed wallpaper or Elizabethan oak paneling. Meanwhile, their Bang and Olufsen music system will be sitting unmolested in a corner.

Architectural theft is a multi-million pound business and highly organised gangs take advantage of public ignorance about the huge prices period features can fetch.

Phil Davies, of English Heritage's London division, says that a marble chimney piece can sell for up to £25,000 and a Georgian front door case £12,000. Victorian paving slabs are being dug up and sold at £50 a square yard.

Mr Davies says the problem is rampant and Scotland Yard has revamped the arts and antiques squad to tackle it.

"It is much wider than London. Historic cities such as Manchester, Bristol and Liverpool, which have many Georgian buildings, are being plundered by both professional gangs and blatant opportunists."

The professionals subscribe to art and conservation magazines to locate easy targets and usually steal on commission. A favourite technique is to pose as an art



Rich rewards: growing interest in architectural restoration has led to booming prices for stolen fixtures

restoration firm and confidently load up a lorry in broad daylight. Amateur thieves often damage or even destroy the objects they are trying to steal.

Thieves from buildings is not new. Lead was popular with thieves in the 18th and 19th centuries but now that the price of lead has dropped only ill-informed crooks strip lead from roofs.

Mr Davies says that while marble chimney pieces are the most prized haul, many fixtures are fair game. He

wants to the public to be made more aware of what their fixtures are worth and cites the example of a carved Georgian doorcase, bought by a dealer in good faith for £300 and put on sale in his architectural salvage yard at £1,000. Its real worth, Mr Davies says, was £1,200.

Rosemary MacQueen, in charge of listed building protection for Westminster council, says that smart city offices are also favourite targets. "A fireplace in a swish West End office could

fetch up to £100,000. People have no idea how ruthless and efficient these thieves are."

Philip Saunders, who runs Trace magazine, which circulates pictures of stolen items, says that such high prices are a new phenomenon. "When you look at a set of four 17th century lead urns, the sort you get in a country house garden, you'd be lucky to get £50 ten years ago — now they are worth £10,000."

However, it is not just listed buildings that are at

risk. Public house furnishings, especially ornamental glass, and the decorative glass panels seen in many older suburban houses are popular with opportunists.

Many houses, in for example the London areas of Bloomsbury, Kensington, Marylebone and Islington may look quite plain from the outside but inside are splendid rooms that offer rich pickings.

Det Inspector Peter Craven, of the West Yorkshire arts and antiques squad, says

that the nerve of the criminals is extraordinary. Thieves have used a hydraulic crane to uproot a set of wrought iron gates from a local country house.

Two weeks ago a gang stripped off the slate roof of the new visitor centre at Stump Cross Caverns, North Yorkshire. They were caught only when the lorry broke down three miles away because of the weight of the load.

"It is big business now that the value of architectural items has risen so dramatically. The criminals today are very discerning and like to offload their goods to America via South Ireland, and Italy, where they are in great demand," he added.

Mr Saunders says that the owner of any period house is at risk, with items from the grounds as desirable as those inside. Thieves have walked into people's gardens and helping themselves to fountains, urns, bird baths or statues. "People are not taking care of their properties. They just don't think thieves will be interested in coming to steal their fireplaces or statues."

Sir Thomas Ingilby, owner of Ripley castle in North Yorkshire, is also concerned about the recent surge of thefts that he has set up a historic house hotline, that links more than 500 houses, to encourage joint surveillance. He is dismayed by the guiltiness of so many people, citing the example of a statue of Mercury that vanished from outside a local council office. Its disappearance went unreported for four days as people assumed it had gone for cleaning.

Tiny chip could be the smart answer

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRONICS engineers have designed a "neuron chip" the size of a garden beetle and with the processing power of three miniature computers.

The device, which in a few years is expected to cost less than £1, could be the key technology that architects and builders have been searching for to create truly "smart" homes and factories according to independent experts.

The chip has been created by Echelon Corporation of Palo Alto, California, which was set up by Mike Markula, a co-founder of Apple Computers

and was regarded as something of a guru in the computing world. According to the company, light bulbs and switches that are individually controlled by a neuron chip may soon be for sale.

These will be capable of communicating with thousands of other neuron chips throughout a home, in appliances from air conditioning

and heating systems to burglar and fire alarm units. In the event of a fire, sensors note an increase in light levels and turn the lighting down, at the same time the heating system's sensors detect an increase in temperatures and make adjustments.

Elsewhere fire alarm sensors switch on sprinklers and call the fire brigade while other neuron chips calculate the safest way out of the building and illuminate exit signs along this route.

The neuron chips, which are to be made by Toshiba and Motorola, two of the world's biggest electronics companies, could be installed in headlights on cars and could spell the end of complicated and confusing wiring systems.

Applications are being studied by some of the world's biggest businesses concerned with home and industrial devices, including AT&T and the Sony Corporation, along with firms such as Lexis Ltd of

London, which specialises in lighting control.

Bill Gorski, senior hardware manager at Landis and Gyr in Buffalo, Illinois, and a subsidiary of the Swiss company that makes card phones in Britain, said the breakthrough achieved was the phenomenon known as "peer-to-peer" protocol, at an attractive price.

The peer-to-peer protocol embodied in the neuron chip allows devices made by different manufacturers to communicate with others as if they

were made in the same factory, it is claimed.

"People have spent many dollars and much time in trying to develop the operating system and protocol that will allow little devices made by different companies to talk to each other," Mr Gorski said. "Up till now this has not been possible without a great deal of time, error and confusion."

The peer-to-peer protocol allows these devices to talk to each other. It takes things beyond the master and slave," he said.

Harman sets target for 'classless' health care

HEALTH targets intended to

close the gap between the rich and poor were set out yesterday by Harriet Harman, the shadow health minister.

If Mr Major believes in a classless society, he should recognise that how long you live and how healthy you are depends on your class," she said. Her challenge was based on the General Household Survey published this month. The results showed that

unskilled men were more likely to suffer prolonged ill-

ness than professional people; □ 26 per cent of unskilled men and 32 per cent of unskilled women had illnesses that limited their lifestyle compared with 10 per cent of professional men and 15 per cent of professional women;

□ differences between the health of the classes were at record levels.

Ms Harman said: "The prime minister should set targets for a phased reduction in health inequalities."

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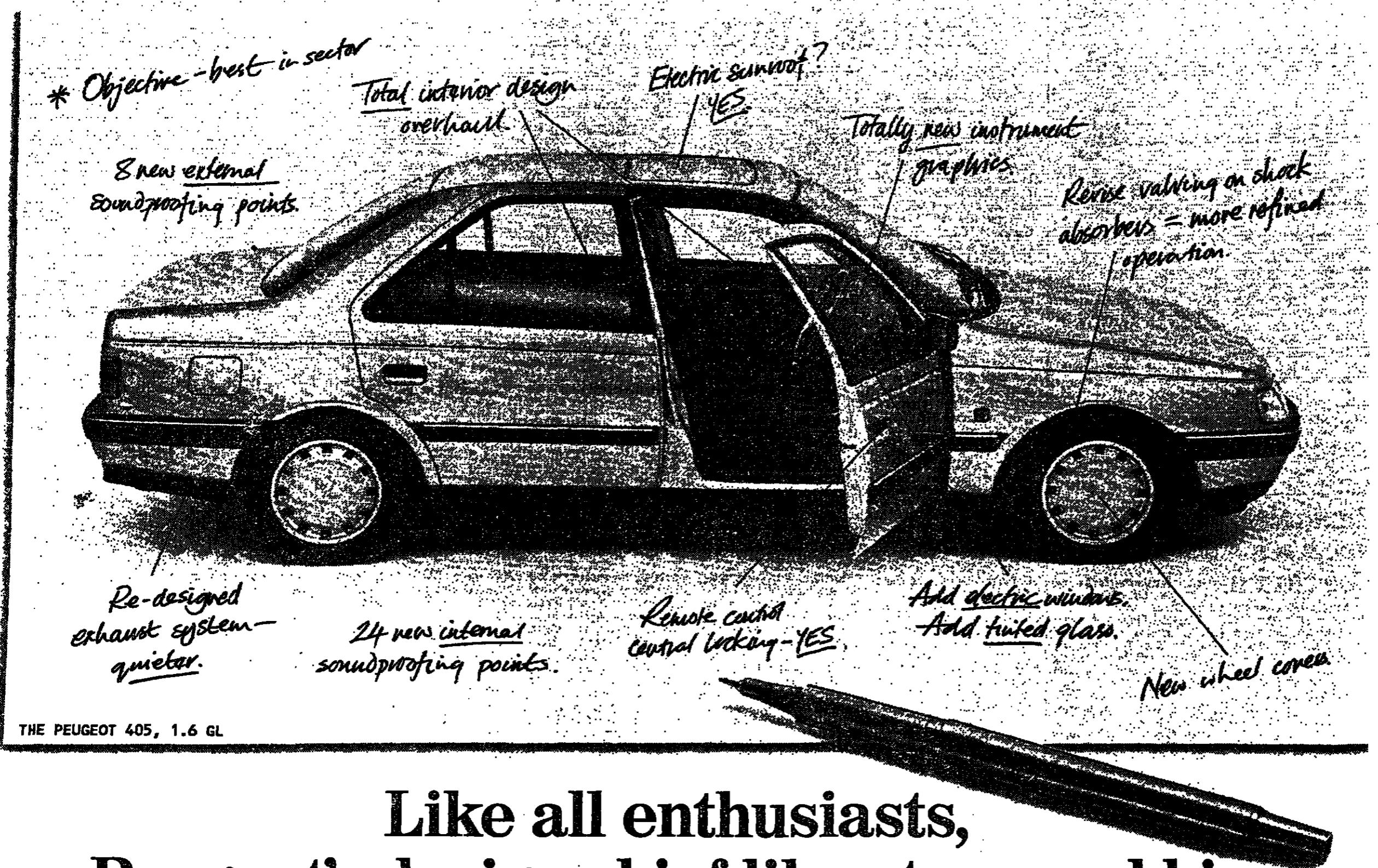
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Coates: most churches are losing members



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But the designers didn't stop there. They've been under the car, and have come up with a quieter exhaust system, and new valves on the shock absorbers to give a more refined operation.

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Gorbachev picks loyal bureaucrat as deputy

From MARY DEDEVSKY IN MOSCOW

NIKOLAI Ryzhkov's heart attack and the unexpected nomination of a traditional communist bureaucrat for the new post of vice-president leave President Gorbachev's leadership sadly diminished.

"Look at those we have lost — Shevardnadze and Ryzhkov", said a reformist deputy yesterday. "And look at Gennadi Yanayev."

His inference was not only that Mr Gorbachev had chosen a Russian and a traditionalist rather than a non-Russian or a known reformer as his deputy. He also had in mind the discrepancy in stature. Mr Yanayev spent three years in charge of the official trade union movement before joining the party secretariat in July. Before that, he worked in the party apparatus and before that in the youth organisation.

He is regarded as completely loyal to Mr Gorbachev to the point of being regarded as a "yes man". His manner — assured, open and quick — belongs to the era of glasnost,

but his language does not. Accepting the nomination, he referred to "democratic and patriotic forces" (as though the two were different, as they are to Russian conservatives). He emphasised his allegiance to the party. — "I am a communist to the depths of my soul" — and paid tribute to Gennadi Yanayev.

His enthusiasm for the market economy was muted and supplemented with assurances that he would defend people's right to "social protection", the code for maintaining state subsidies and ensuring that no one suffers in the transition.

Vladimir Ligachev, the now-retired doyen of the party traditionalists, said he thoroughly approved of Mr Yanayev, "a good communist and intelligent".

Mr Gorbachev may have chosen Mr Yanayev, who is certain to gain the necessary majority of congress votes in the overnight election, for precisely the qualities cited by Mr Ligachev. At a time when the Soviet leader is being criticised for ruining the country and selling out to the West, the choice of a presentable traditionalist makes sense.

It could relieve the pressure from conservatives, who are well represented at the congress, and from those craving order at almost any cost. At the same time, it could give Mr Gorbachev a degree of freedom on economic reform.

A less complimentary judgement would be that Mr Gorbachev has again shown his preference for compromise at almost any cost and his reluctance to appoint anyone of the calibre to become a rival.

Some in yesterday's audience compared Mr Yanayev's manner and policies with those of Mr Ryzhkov — described at the end of yesterday as being "in a stable condition" in a Moscow hospital. The crucial difference, however, is that Mr Ryzhkov had a mind of his own and the ability to make life uncomfortable for Mr Gorbachev.

Among his victories were Mr Gorbachev's agreement to drop his preference for the more radical Stalinist economic programme; and the pledge contained in the compromise programme that government and state agencies would not be abolished until new organs could take over.

Gorbachev's powers, page 1
Leading article, page 11

Concern as more flee Albania

From REUTER
IN ATHENS

GREECE expressed concern over reports of murder and stiff jail terms in neighbouring Albania as more refugees fled across the border yesterday.

More than 100 Albanians, mostly ethnic Greeks and staff jail terms in the past week, fleeing from political turmoil in the communist country, the state-run Athens news agency ANA said.

The agency also cited unconfirmed reports that three ethnic Greeks and an Albanian soldier were shot dead by guards while trying to flee into Greece early this month.

A Greek government spokesman appeared to be referring to these reports when he said the "multiplying number of murders of members of the Greek minority in Albania" was causing concern. Athens says about 350,000 ethnic Greeks live in Albania.

Greece was also worried by the fact that, despite pledges of liberalisation by Tirana, demonstrators were sentenced to stiff prison terms.

Exiles still: the former King Michael of Romania looking on as his daughter, Princess Sophie, inspects a passport in Bucharest yesterday before they were deported, less than 12 hours after returning to the country

Man in the news

Absent king with longing to serve

By TIM JUDAH

OF ALL eastern Europe's monarchs in waiting only King Michael has actually ruled in his own country. King Michael, aged 69, a Habsburg, is the son of King Carol II who did much to bring the reputation of the German-dominated monarchy in Romania to dispute.

King Michael abdicated twice — a notorious woman... and admirer of Mussolini. King Michael could not be more different from his father. In 1944, at the age of 22, he staged a coup against Romania's fascist dictator, Ion Antonescu, and in exile he has built up a reputation for honesty, hardwork and modesty.

He abdicated on December 30, 1947, after Romania's Soviet-backed communists

threatened him and surrounded Bucharest's royal palace with troops. He and his mother were allowed to leave Romania with little but their clothes and four cars. Since then King Michael has had a passion for wartime Jeeps.

In exile, he has run a chicken farm in Hertfordshire, been a test pilot in the United States, worked for Learjet, started an electronics company and also been a stock-broker. For most of his life in Switzerland. In 1948 he married a French princess, Anne of Bourbon-Parme. They have five daughters.

King Michael has always maintained that, because of the way he was forced to abdicate, he is the legal sovereign of Romania. He still holds his old Romanian passport. He is named as King Michael of Romania in the Danish diplomatic passport with which he tried to enter Romania on Christmas Day.

Since last December's revolution, in which the Ceausescu regime was overthrown, King Michael has let it be known that his dearest wish is to visit his country, then to visit the tombs of his ancestors, and, lastly, to serve if called upon. Indeed, there is growing interest in Romania in the man who has already played an important part in his country's history and may yet have a role.

King criticized, page 18

Observers allege Serbia poll fraud

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BELGRADE

OPPOSITION parties and Serbian expatriates acting as election observers yesterday accused Serbia's ruling communists of widespread tampering in the republic's first free elections in 50 years.

The communists, recently renamed Socialists and led by Slobodan Milosevic, crushed opposition parties in the first-round ballot on December 9 and in run-offs on Sunday,

in the elections. Serbs living outside Yugoslavia are generally considered opponents of communist rule.

The delegation was headed by United States Congresswoman Helen Bentley, who would submit a report on the polls to the House of Representatives, Mr Hodzera said.

He cited a sudden 10 per cent increase in the number of registered voters on December 9 and evidence of voting without identification documents as being "particularly serious", given that 57 Socialist candidates won by margins of less than 10 per cent in the first round.

He also criticised what he said were attempts by officials to intimidate voters and bias against opposition parties in state-run media during the election campaign. That proved the elections "were not really democratic", he said.

A separate team of electoral observers from the National Republican Institute left Belgrade on Christmas day saying they would publish their findings on the elections in Washington next month.

Miodrag Skulic, a spokesman for the Serbian Renewal Movement, the largest opposition party that won 19 seats, said specific complaints of irregularities had been lodged with the state electoral commission.

Serbian authorities have said that some voters were allowed to register at their polling places on election day due to incomplete electoral rolls and have denied any electoral wrongdoing.

OSLO NOTEBOOK by Tony Samstag

Norwegians' charity to foreigners ends at home

A sian Ashan, aged 48, is a graphic artist who came to Norway 20 years ago from his native Pakistan, settling in a suburb of the capital. Recently he had what must have seemed a good idea: a Christmas party for those residents of Oslo, particularly the elderly, who would otherwise be alone. Mr Ashan and his friends, mainly Muslims, reasoned that their willingness to work during the Christian holiday was, as he put it, "an exploitable resource".

According to what statistics you read, up to half the population of Oslo may be living alone, ironic in a society crippled by religious fundamentalism where the sanctity of family life is cited as justification for a depressing shortage of social amenities.

The local council was happy to put up about £3,000 for the party. But weeks passed and not one Norwegian had accepted the invitation. So Mr Ashan went on a national religious radio programme to repeat his offer. This time the lonely responded in force, from all over the country: not, however, with even one grateful acceptance, but with scores of abusive telephone calls. A consensus emerged that the bloody foreigners, not content with taking their jobs, social benefits, women and so on, were now trying to steal Christmas from the Norwegians as well. This seasonal tale from the folk who claim to have invented Father

Christmas illustrates the Dag Hammarskjold Syndrome: the tendency of small, provincial countries to wax idealistic over exotic, impoverished peoples, while abhorring the stranger in their midst.

Norway is justly proud that it gives 1.11 per cent of its gross national product to development aid, one of the highest percentages in the world. At the same time, few foreigners actually living in Norway, perhaps 4 per cent of the population, will be surprised by the natives' response to Mr Ashan's generous impulse.

A n elegant variation on the Hammarskjold Syndrome is the Brundtland Effect: a preoccupation with wide-ranging threats to the environment while allowing one's own immediate habitat to be plundered and despoiled. This phenomenon is named after Gro Harlem Brundtland, the prime minister. She is well known as chairman of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development. Her exhortations about sustainable development and the like have earned her many international awards. At home, however, she and her ministers have consistently demonstrated a talent for evading sensitive conservation issues.

This year's crop of scandals includes the continuing illegal slaughter of Scandinavia's last wolves by Norwegian farmers and the proposed siting of an Olympic skating hall at a protected wetland.

Moscow's troops add to crime in Germany

From REUTER
IN BONN

SOVIET troops in what was East Germany commit up to 30 crimes daily and 15 to 30 soldiers desert every week, the Federal Crime Office said yesterday.

"There is a striking emergence of criminality involving Soviet units as well as growing number of deserters," Hans-Ludwig Zachert, the organisation's chief said in an interview with the Bonn daily *Die Welt*. Transformed by German unification from an untouchable occupation force to a demoralised anachronism, 380,000 Soviet troops are due to be withdrawn from east Germany by 1994. Inspections in the ranks is reported to be rift.

The security agency said that those arrested were members of an underground body set up in 1988 to support North Korea's proposals to reunify the two Koreas, divided in the 1950s.

The agency said that the underground organisation used a nationwide radical student alliance as "a front for revolutionary movement".

Socialist 'plot' is exposed in Seoul

Seoul — South Korea's main internal security agency claimed yesterday that it had thwarted a socialist conspiracy to overthrow the government. It alleged that the plot had direct links to North Korea. The Agency for National Security Planning said it had charged 31 people, including university students and a primary school teacher, and had issued warrants for the arrest of 70 others for violating harsh anti-communist laws.

The security agency said that those arrested were members of an underground body set up in 1988 to support North Korea's proposals to reunify the two Koreas, divided in the 1950s.

The agency said that the underground organisation used a nationwide radical student alliance as "a front for revolutionary movement".

Surinam 'calm'

Cayenne, French Guiana — The former Dutch colony of Surinam in South America remained calm after a military coup, a Dutch diplomat said. "Essential services continue to function and there has been no announcement of a curfew," the diplomat said by telephone from Paramaribo, the capital. (Reuters)

Explosion claim

Rome — A Christmas morning explosion in Rome was aimed at Vatican Radio and not an American servicemen's club, according to a caller who claimed responsibility for an anarchist group. The blast caused slight damage to the club and the Vatican Radio building. There were no injuries. (Reuters)

Cost of pleasure

Tokyo — Japanese companies spent an estimated record 4,980 billion yen (£19.2 billion) on corporate entertainment in the year ending January 1990, the tax agency reported. In recent years, the corporate entertainment bill has been larger than the nation's total defence spending. (Reuters)

THE
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9.00 AM

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FRIDAY 4TH JANUARY 1991

THE
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THE
SALE.

Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

THERE IS ONLY ONE HARRODS.
THERE IS ONLY ONE SALE.



Conor Cruise O'Brien

Gulf: why it must be war

Christmas, combined with the impending Security Council deadline, seems likely to prompt further peace initiatives in the Gulf. But such initiatives from the West, in present circumstances, will make war more probable. Saddam Hussein is a warlord, according to whose value-system peace initiatives are intrinsically contemptible. In invading and holding on to Kuwait, he is buoyed by his conviction that western countries (especially America) are not prepared to accept the kind of casualties that war with Iraq would entail.

Saddam is most satisfied with the results of his virtuous public relations exploitation of the hostages, culminating in the Christmas releases. As he had foreseen, the hostages — first their predicament, then their release — dominated television coverage of the Gulf, pushing the occupation of Kuwait into the background.

At government level, the alliance against Iraq holds. But popular support for the alliance declines, and opposition to war with Iraq is growing. People are confused, as it was intended they should be. Since Saddam was responsible for releasing the hostages, how can he be the monster people made him out to be? And if he is not a monster, why go to war with him?

In America, the growing signs of opposition to war with Iraq are reflected in the polls, in the media and above all in Congress. All the movement of public opinion confirms, in Saddam's mind, the diagnosis he inferred in conversation with the US ambassador, April Glaspie, on the eve of the invasion of Kuwait: America disposes of huge armaments but lacks the stomach for a fight.

The British scene, too, has become more encouraging for Saddam since Mrs Thatcher's fall. Mr Major is committed to her unyielding policy, but it is not in his nature to radiate the same fervour for its pursuit. For Saddam, loss of fervour is loss of credibility. And in present conditions, the change in tone and in temper of discussion betokens a change in the emphasis of policy.

Noting that change of temperature, I thought of Edmund Burke's comment in *Letters on a Regicide Peace*, on the efforts of Pitt and his colleagues to get out of the conflict with revolutionary France: "Cold as ice themselves, they never could kindle in our breasts a spark of that zeal which is necessary to a conflict with an adverse real..." Mr Major made little impact in Washington last week. The British politician who did make an impact was Ted Heath: he talked peace, and Congress loved it.

Burke also said, in the same letter from which I have quoted: "A peace too eagerly sought is not

always the sooner obtained." Mr Heath and others should meditate on that. In the present situation too eager a search for peace conveys to Saddam that he can safely remain in Kuwait past the Security Council deadline, then indefinitely.

Developments in the Soviet Union last week will also have brought much comfort to Saddam Hussein. He is bound to see Eduard Shevardnadze's resignation speech and especially the fierce anti-western speech on Friday by the KGB chief, Vladimir Kryuchkov, as the beginning of the end of the grand alliance against him. He will have noted that excessive zeal for the alliance was among the charges brought against Shevardnadze by his military enemies. If the Soviet Union does indeed regress to Stalinism, which is what Shevardnadze fears and Kryuchkov hopes, then the present unanimity in the Security Council is over, a new form of cold war is on, and a new Soviet leadership, whether presided over by Gorbachev or not, will be warning the West against "military adventures" in the Gulf.

What with western eagerness for peace increasing and anti-western feeling rising in key sectors of the Soviet system, Saddam is likely to feel this week — perhaps more than at any time since the military build-up in the Gulf began — that he can get away with holding on to Kuwait. Yet if he does hold on, war is likely to follow, soon after the deadline is past. President Bush simply cannot withdraw that huge force, leaving Saddam securely in possession of Kuwait and dominant in the Arab Middle East. And the American leaders, civil and military, will not want to see their forces still sweating it out in the Gulf with the dangers of the Soviet Union returning to Stalinism and the cold war. The arguments in favour of getting the Gulf war over and done with before that new cold war sets in will be hard to resist.

The divergent impact of the Shevardnadze and Kryuchkov speeches — encouraging hardline tendencies in both Baghdad and Washington — is the main factor now making for a Gulf war. And even in the unlikely event of a withdrawal of western forces, leaving Saddam holding Kuwait, war in the Middle East is now inevitable. Iraq, it is reliably reported, will soon have the capacity for nuclear war, perhaps by the end of the coming year. Saddam is already threatening to use chemical weapons against Israel, which is unlikely to wait until he has nuclear weapons as well. So it is no longer a question of whether there will be war, but whether Iraq's adversary will be the present alliance, or Israel alone. It is more likely to be the alliance, with Israel either an unwavering ally or an ally because attacked by Iraq.

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

Someone had scratched "Merry Christmas England" into the firm terracotta sand at the beach at Luz. I watched as the incoming tide washed away the message. Merry went first, then one wave obliterated both Christmases and England and I felt a hollow pang of patriotism such as causes people to go to British embassies and sign their names in the visitors' book.

It is our fourth Christmas on the Algarve. Around us they are celebrating with salt cod and broccoli — our oldest allies' traditional food for the feast. Not us. The old cash and carry that restricted custom to hotel keepers, limited companies and liars is now a proper supermarket — and I found a shelf marked Peru, boasting upwards of a dozen sub-Obb turkeys.

Why Peru? I asked my grandmother, who had come with me to buy baked beans.

In Portugal, turkey is *peru*, said I, sounding like a United Nations guide who has been at the drinks cupboard.

It is silly, said Martha with the conviction that goes with being seven years old, to call a bird by the name of a country.

We have a Christmas tree in our sitting room; its lights give a whole new significance to the word "flash". There are 40 bulbs; 16 of them zip on then cut out, and a second later the other 24 streak on and off and on, adjourned briefly by the first lot, then nothing, then both, then one, then neither.

Was there not anything queer? I asked my wife when she brought them back from the electrical shop. It transpires that Portuguese decorative lights flicker; there is no demand for ones that just glow — nasty foreign conservative things.

For most of the year the expatriates rule okay on the Algarve; come the important times and Brits go to ground for restaurants that stage special, ruinous, "with all the trimmings" events) and the indigenous folk walk tall. She took a bite and said yuk. I asked her what she meant. It transpired she did not like the icing — all that marzipan and hard white sugar stuff on top.

Dangers of the Lambeth vacuum

George Hill asks if the Church can still afford the leisurely changeover from one Archbishop to his successor



Runcie leaves in January



Carey takes over in March

recounts and alternative votes can scarcely arise, as there is no alternative candidate.)

Even that ceremony will confer on him only the "spiritualities" of his office: he will have to wait until a few days before his enthronement on April 19 for the private meeting with the Queen during which she will make him free of the "temporalities", which once meant vast tracts of land but now mean little more than rights of appointment to certain benefices.

So for almost two months there will be no Primate of All England — the established church spiritually rudderless. The long interval is a matter of custom, not a statutory relic of obsolete necessity, such as the two-month delay in America between a presidential election and the inauguration, which was ordained to give the new man time to complete his dispositions in the age of the pony express.

"It is usual to leave a decent space between the departure of one archbishop and the arrival of the next," comments a Lambeth source. "It is felt to be a bit awkward to be serving one archbishop while the other is still around. There is no fixed precedent about how long the interval should be, but this time there is some building work to do at Lambeth Palace, and it will be convenient to allow time for it to be finished in the period between."

There is something thoroughly Anglican about scheduling the elevation of a new primate on the basis that he should not get under the feet of the builders. It is as if a conclave in the Vatican, gathered to elect a new pope, decided to hold back with the white smoke until the Sistine chapel had been fully restored.

The assembly of the World Council of Churches is to meet in Canberra in February. Dr Carey will be there, but as an observer rather than as leader of Britain's

interdenominational delegation. The council is too recent an innovation for leadership of the delegation to have become an integral function of the Primate of All England.

Eventually the church will have a fully-functioning archbishop again. It will have been a long haul from the day Dr Runcie announced that he would resign, and made himself a lame duck incumbent, to that of the election of his successor by the dean and chapter, a year and a day will have passed.

In the calendar of eternity, of course, a year and a day may be little enough, and the six weeks in which the church will be without a leader may count as the twinkling of an eye. Unlike a pope, an archbishop is not a sovereign; nor is he a prime minister. But of all institutions a church should be aware of taking symbolism lightly.

It would not be difficult to arrange a swifter formal handing over of power on a basis that did not hamper due preliminary deliberation over the choice of a candidate, nor interfered with the work of bishops' bench in the House of Lords. As Bishop of Bath and Wells, with no great length of service behind him, he will remain too junior to qualify for a seat in the Lords until the election on March 27 formally "translates" him to Canterbury.

The

assembly of the World Council of Churches is to meet in Canberra in February. Dr Carey will be there, but as an observer rather than as leader of Britain's

Roger Boyes in Warsaw contrasts the disappearance of shop queues this Christmas with the long wait for treatment as hospitals become increasingly overstretched

Walk in and buy, at a price

Queues, the symbols of suppressed inflation and economic mismanagement, have become virtually extinct in Poland. An aerial photograph of Warsaw 18 months ago would have revealed masses of tiny worms wriggling around the streets: lines outside meat shops, waiting for bakers at the supermarket, for visas to the West, for lavatory paper, for sugar, for vodka and for mineral water. Now, a year into market reforms, the shortages and the bottlenecks have given way to well-lit shops displaying an abundance of goods, albeit highly priced. There was a sign of the times just before Christmas when the famous pre-war department store, Jabolkski, reopened for business. But some queues have persisted.

Hundreds of Poles queued in temperatures around -8°C outside Wedel, Warsaw's premier chocolate shop, to stock up on Poland's traditional Christmas and New Year treat. A shorter queue of pensioners and women with babies has priority and moves more swiftly into the shop. At the entrance, the confluence of the two lines, there is a flash of temper when an ordinary queue challenges fast-lane mother: "That's not your kid," she snaps. "You have just borrowed him to get in first." But the incident is soon smoothed over. This year there is room and chocolate for everyone, and sweets no longer have to be fought over. They are an affordable luxury.

Nestle, the giant chocolate company, expressed an interest in the Wedel privatisation. Then Agros used to buy up Wedel, guarantee the 3,000 chocolate factory jobs and raise salaries at a stroke. To the credit of the workers, they refused to believe Agros, whose offer would have anchored the company into a quasi-socialist arrangement. They have chosen Nestle. Yet the workers remain anxious, and not without reason. Unemployment



One queue the free market has failed to disperse: for chocolate

in Poland touched 1.2 million at Christmas and is likely to climb beyond two million next year.

The socialist regime in Poland may not have been committed to supplying luxuries to the population, but it was committed to eradicating the epidemics and unnecessary diseases of the pre-war years: malaria, typhoid, diphtheria. Moreover, it wanted to give everyone equal access to medical treatment, to depart from the kind of practice that allows the rich to buy the best doctors. Hospitals were run with party discipline. Peasant girls were trained as

nurses. Excellent medical schools turned out thousands of doctors. But with a population bludgeoned by

to enter the age-range most prone to cancer, the system has begun to crack.

The oncology institute was built in 1932 from public donations. Poland has 3,800 beds for cancer patients. It needs at least 6,000. The incidence of cancer, now slightly above the European average, is likely to rise. A new institute has been ten years in the making. The move to the market has given hospitals one advantage: the Polish currency can be freely converted into dollars, allowing hospitals to seek out the most cost-effective suppliers. But there is still a shortfall of cash. Only 24 per cent of male and 42 per cent of female cancer patients in Poland survive for five years compared to 50 and 60 per cent respectively in America.

Is privatisation a solution for the health service? Dr Jan Steffen, director of the oncology institute, hopes private industrialists will eventually match some of the contributions made over the years by state-owned factories. For this institute, with its tradition of private funding, this may be a way out, but the whole health system cannot survive on charity, and the only chance is to overhaul the medical insurance scheme.

So far a dermatology clinic, privately owned by doctors, has been set up, and there is a private surgery in Warsaw. The cost of a day in the clinic is currently about £10, and private house visits by doctors cost about £5. Gynaecologists are raising the price of abortions (already about £260) in anticipation of a tighter law. So in hospitals at least, the queues will stay.

The transition from a command to a market economy sounds altogether smoother, and more logical in the writings of economists than it is proving in practice. First remove the decayed tooth of the communist economy, then install the efficient state-of-the-art incisor of the free market and proceed to chew. But removing the shards of the old is hard, and the new fits only uncomfortably. And the whole operation is being performed without anaesthetic. Luxuries will still be scarce and medical care hard to afford for the foreseeable future in Poland. Prosperity will still have to wait.

Tomorrow

Charles Bremer reports on Christmas in New York

Classlessness brought to book

In keeping with John Major's vision of the classless society, *Debrief* is purging itself of superfluous gentry and including 40,000 noteworthy commoners in its *People of Today* 1991. A panel of experts from various fields has just delivered its recommendations, and the names of those who have achieved excellence will nudge out members of the minor aristocracy when the volume is published in March. However, tradition is not being ignored completely, and editor Patsy Ellis confirms that the holders of peerages and baronetcies will continue to be listed, but not their sons and daughters. "We are now selecting people on the basis of merit."

"For someone who has not been paid for a tree which he loaded into the car and secured with string, he was surprisingly restrained," said my wife. We circled the block, found him standing by his trees counting the money in his wallet and I gave him 1,000 escudos. He said Happy Christmas.

I made a cake for Boxing Day: bought sultanas and raisins and pitted prunes on Friday, left them to soak in local brandy overnight and on Saturday the fruit was just moist and I poured on some more brandy: when this, too, had been assimilated I added another glug on Sunday. Gives a whole new meaning to the term "dried fruit". I baked the cake on Sunday afternoon, iced it on Monday and we had a slice each as we unwrapped presents by the flashing tree on Christmas Day.

I had forgotten about Martha. The 4lb cake contained half a bottle of Borges Five Star. She took a bite and said yuk. I asked her what she meant. It transpired she did not like the icing — all that marzipan and hard white sugar stuff on top.

known administrators, I added people like Lewis Biggs, director of the Tate in Liverpool and — by way of encouragement — included many young artists who are not members of the Royal Academy.

Hilary Rubinstein, founder of *The Good Hotel Guide*, chose chefs on the basis of Michelin rosettes and innovative contributions to British cooking. "I like the notion of a book widening the range of people recognised," he says.

you should have ordered a cup before the bus hit you



would save a lot of money and avoid flooding the market," says Goff. "For example, there were recently three biographies of the poet Isaac Rosenberg. All lost money, whereas one would have been profitable."

But not all authors support the idea. Peter Ackroyd, who is now working on a biography of William Blake, prefers a scholarly free-for-all. "A register would make no difference at all," he says.

Michael Holroyd, Bernard Shaw's biographer, also has his doubts.

"Last time it was the publishers who killed the scheme. They said it would result in another Watergate. The temptation to break into the building one night and make a killing by rushing out a biography before a rival was just too great."

Soft cell

With the advertising industry as hard hit by the recession as any, a glimmer of light appears with the opportunity to exploit a captive market. Eric McGraw, managing editor of *Time*, a new quarterly for occupants of Her Majesty's prisons, says he is considering selling space in the second issue, due in the New Year, offering advertisers access to 50,000 prisoners in the nation's jails. Although inmates receive only an average weekly wage of £2.70, the Home Office says the total annual expenditure of the prison population amounts to £18 million a year.

"There are marvellous opportunities for advertisers," says Mark Robinson, a director of the HDM advertising agency. "For a start it would be a great way to build long-term brands." Charity advertisers might cash in on the

number of prisoners who turn to philanthropy, and with tobacco regularly replacing cash as a currency — "snout" to the initiated — cigarette manufacturers are unlikely to miss the chance.

Would McGraw turn away any advertising? "We might have to draw the line at manufacturers of rope-ladders," he says.

Four d'oeuvres

Michael Grade, chief executive of Channel 4, will start 1991 with a crusade: to abolish the first course of business lunches. Cigar-chomping Grade believes that millions of pounds are lost every year while captains of industry and others whose time is precious have to work their way through the hors d'oeuvres and the soup.

"Busy people should not have to wait for the main course," he says. "They should go straight into it and be back at their desks at the latest by 2.30."

He admits that early soundings have produced few supporters, even among his own staff, but is not deterred. "I am thinking of writing to the prime minister or to the EC in Brussels. If that doesn't work I shall find an MP to sponsor a private member's bill," he says.

A colleague travelled north to York on the 1400 train from King's Cross shortly before Christmas and went to the restaurant car to order lunch. "Sorry, sir, you're too late. We are now serving afternoon tea," the steward told him. The following day he returned to London from Wigan on the 1610. Again he made his way to the restaurant car. "Too early, sir, we are still serving lunch," he was told.



UNSTEADY AS SHE GOES

Like Ulysses beset by tempests, Mikhail Gorbachev appears unable to control where fate will take him. His leadership is without much dignity, valour or even wisdom. Most of his early comrades have fallen and nerves are snapping among his remaining crew.

The exhaustion which appears to have wrecked the prime minister's health was manifest during this past week's Soviet Congress not only in the resignation of Eduard Shevardnadze but more alarmingly in the diatribe against all things foreign by General Vladimir Kryuchkov, the head of the KGB. Yet Mr Gorbachev's new powers show that the existing captain remains unchallenged — whether because after him there is only chaos is still unclear.

Mr Gorbachev has proposed referenda on the most drastic questions to have faced the Union since the advent of communism: whether it should continue in existence and what sort of politico-economic system should prevail within it. The first question is to be addressed explicitly, the second indirectly by asking the people whether they approve of private land ownership. In principle, such referenda are both reasonable and consistent with international practice, provided the residents of each constituent republic are separately counted. The economic debate is correctly concentrated on the one issue of private ownership, the rejection of which is fundamental to communism.

Yet Mr Gorbachev appears to have misunderstood both issues. He has pre-judged the question of the Soviet Union's existence in advance of any referendum. His recent speeches suggest that the new authoritarian phase of his political journey will have but one clear objective: to preserve the Soviet Union in more or less its present form. Hence the military and secret police allies ever closer round him; hence his desertion by his more outspoken reform-minded colleagues. The Kremlin doubtless feels that the rule of Soviet law can only be re-established through virtually untrammeled executive power. But democracy has rarely grown out of the barrel of a gun.

There is no mystery about the cause of the

Soviet Union's present economic and political crisis: Mr Gorbachev's failure to back the radical Shatalin Plan for swift conversion to a market economy. Having demoralised the command economy, he has not had the courage, of perhaps even the understanding, to see the urgency of replacing it promptly. If government trucks cannot move food, then private sector ones must be encouraged to do so. Yet Mr Gorbachev, facing the collapse of communism and unwilling to give the market free rein, is now turning to a third force, the army. Authoritarian rule has always offered the seductive way out of hard choices.

Mr Gorbachev cannot avoid this bind. If he goes down the authoritarian route that he appears to have chosen, he will find the markets on whose behalf he professes to call ever more dislocated, criminalised and inequitable. He will find the public less ready to accept the disciplines and short-term hardship that markets bring. The pluralist social democracy and economic freedom that he once heralded will thus be a sick dream.

There is, for much of his country, perhaps one way out: emphatically to reject the Union in the referendum and opt unilaterally for economic reform. But that means Mr Gorbachev must face down his new friends among the hard-liners, some of whom have indicated they would regard the break-up of the Union as a worse outcome even than the collapse of communism.

Mr Gorbachev is still able to count on Western financial support and technical assistance. Unless and until he develops a strategy to match, his appeals for patience from his people are unjustified and his demands for discipline may be impossible to enforce without bloodshed. There are now two referenda in the offing. Mr Gorbachev's handling of them will be crucial, not just to Western responses to his appeal for help, but to the future of the Soviet Union itself. Seldom has an empire put itself to this sort of test. The omens are not good. But the worst has not yet come to pass. All eyes will remain on Moscow this coming month.

FOR ART'S SAKE

Theatre sharpens the mind and imparts civilised values. These also happen to be two functions of education. Should it follow, then, that children ought to experience professional drama at close quarters as a regular part of their schooling? As reported on today's arts page, the chance of their doing so is diminishing, as drama companies aimed specifically at children go out of business.

There is no single culprit involved. Like the decline in school sports, also reported in today's paper, there is more a vague passing of the buck. The Department of Education feels that the Arts Council should pay for theatre enterprises, even those, such as the young people's theatres attached to regional repertory companies, run for educational purposes. The Arts Council has many hungry mouths to feed, and most of these can raise the decibels far higher than an educational theatre company. Some charge-capped local authorities which have supported educational drama now consider it an obvious target for the chop. So do regional repertory theatres struggling to keep open their main houses. The 1988 Education Reform Act has also made it more difficult for state schools to charge parents for theatre visits organised in school hours.

Not even the acting profession is blameless. Appearing in educational theatre is not well paid, but that does not account for the stigma often attached to it. Actors who are "resting" sometimes regard schools theatre as barely preferable to singing telegrams. This has not helped its reputation among parents, teachers or, indeed, children. Tacky productions, often with a hackneyed agit-prop political message, will not foster a love

of theatre or an understanding of English literature. Yet good educational theatre can stimulate pupils as can few other activities.

The smell of greasepaint still works magic on cynical teenagers: contempt, boredom or bafflement can be turned into remarkable enthusiasm. In this respect, film or video productions can never match the physical impact of live theatre. Actors can use the allure of their trade to fuel this enthusiasm through discussion and workshops. Because dramatists customarily deal with humanity's great concerns, teenagers not only learn dramatic technique, but also explore their responses to the world outside. Teachers who prepare the ground thoroughly attest that contact with live theatre can be a springboard for classroom lessons for weeks afterwards.

Educational theatre thus pays a sound dividend, not least in building a theatre audience of tomorrow. The government argues that its list of priorities is long enough and that parents must be the ones voluntarily to take children to the theatre. But how stands that argument alongside the draconian powers being taken to insist on the involuntary learning of mathematics or science — or for that matter English, of which drama is an integral part? From Marlowe to Miller, the canon of drama is a locked treasure-chest, waiting for each new generation. Parents have their part to play in goading the schools to find the key. But the key is held by educators and their political masters, or at least is lost somewhere between them. The arts ministry should never have been removed from the aegis of the education department, yielding this typical instance of irresponsibility.

CONSERVATION DOUBLE-SPEAK

The new environment secretary, Michael Heseltine, must turn his attention urgently to one of his old stamping grounds, laws guarding the conservation areas of England and Wales. Next month, the House of Lords hears an appeal against the decision of an earlier incumbent of his chair, Nicholas Ridley, to allow redevelopment of No 1, Poultry, a site covering an entire acre of the City of London's central conservation area.

If this site can be redeveloped, planning lawyers take the view that no conservation area is safe from demolition by a sufficiently determined and wealthy developer. In this case, the developer is ironically the chairman of the Arts Council, Lord Palumbo, who in other guises is expected to protect Britain's cultural heritage. One of the environment department's inspectors recently asserted: "The designation of a conservation area is not in my opinion intended as a means to secure the preservation of buildings that are not judged worthy of listing."

Such a conclusion undermines the whole purpose of having conservation areas at all. Precisely because these areas are usually attractive places to live, work and shop, pressure for redevelopment has constantly risen. But there is a flaw in the legislation which government policy, or the lack of it, has allowed developers to exploit. The act does not say that the purpose of a conservation area is to "preserve and enhance" but "preserve or enhance".

Developers argue that there is no reason to refuse them a demolition of any building within a conservation area not specifically listed for preservation, providing the

replacement "enhances" the scene. Such a proviso is not just moot but wholly subjective. In some cases it could enable the demolition of every building that was supposedly conserved, as numerous designated areas do not contain any listed buildings. It was in this spirit that 80 per cent of some conservation areas in the City of London were demolished in the 1970s, making a mockery of designation.

When control over demolition in conservation areas was originally introduced, the government of the day stated the reason clearly and unequivocally: "The demolition of even a single building which may not be architecturally or historically significant in itself and the construction of some new building in its place, could result in the character or appearance of a conservation area, or part of it, being severely prejudiced. In such circumstances the whole purpose of designating the conservation area could be undermined."

This admirable statement was excised from the latest planning circular from Mr Heseltine's department. No conservation area should be frozen for all time — parts of the City of Westminster successfully blend old and new within conservation areas — but the scales are weighted too heavily against conservation. Local planners should be free of the blight of developers able successfully to appeal against them because of poorly drafted legislation. Michael Heseltine should show his disregard for civil service gobbledegook when he issues his new planning policy guidelines shortly. The words "conserve" and "enhance" must not be interchangeable with "demolish".

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Unions' role in a free market

From the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress

Sir, Your leader of December 20, "Bridlington haunts TUC", in arguing for a totally free-market approach to trade union membership, reveals a simplistic misunderstanding of the realities of industrial relations. Such an approach would make it impossible for employers and unions to establish stable relationships?

You refer to European practice, but the much vaunted German system is based on industrial unions with very clear designated areas of trade union organisation. There is no question that of any union having rights other than the one recognised to bargain in that industry.

The British system is less clear-cut, but the TUC's "Bridlington" procedures provide a means of regulating competition between trade unions to minimise conflict and prevent the disruption of established agreements. A free-market approach would encourage anarchy, instability and conflict, with damaging consequences for Britain's economic performance.

It has become fashionable for employers setting up new sites to seek single-union agreements. Such agreements would of course be incompatible with the free-market doctrine you espouse.

Inter-union disputes occur from time to time because of changes in work organisation, or technology or ownership or the opening of new plants. The "Bridlington" principles and procedures provide a way of resolving these conflicts without dislocation. Through their operation the TUC provides an essential service to the nation.

But inter-union problems are tiny compared with the much bigger problem of workers being denied by their employer the right to be represented by any union. This is the problem that should be addressed by government.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN WILLIS,
General Secretary,
Trades Union Congress,
Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1.
December 21.

From Mr David Wood

Sir, The concept of trades unions operating in the market place on the same basis as Bupa or the AA may at first sight appear attractive for the reasons you state in your leading article. However, you made no reference to the third actor on the stage in addition to the potential member and the union: that is, the employer.

If a person has the right to join any union they wish, this utopian scenario would demand that they have the same right to be represented across the negotiating table by that organisation. Pitiful the poor employer who had 100 employees in different unions. What is he supposed to do?

The Bridlington agreement is not about the closed shop or any other red herring. It is about seeking to retain order in the complex world of industrial relations where recognition of a union by an employer for negotiating purposes is a vital element. Pure democracy and total freedom of choice sounds fine on paper but is in fact, a recipe for chaos.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WOOD
(Industrial Relations Officer),
The British Dietetic Association,
Elizabeth House,
22 Suffolk Street, Queensway,
Birmingham 1.

December 20.

Privatisation offers

From Mr W. M. Forrest

Sir, As an unsuccessful customer-applicant for electricity shares, I have three questions to ask. Did the words "customer priority application form" effectively warrant that, in the event of an over-subscription, a customer who applied for any number of shares (not less than the minimum) would receive one or more shares ahead of and in the stead of all non-customers?

If so, did that constitute a deception? And did the allocation to non-customers rather than customers result in a pecuniary benefit to any person?

Yours sincerely,
WILL FORREST,
42 Lingfield Road,
Wimbledon Common, SW19.

Case against VAT

From Mr David Irons

Sir, Anthony Hopkinson writes amusingly (December 14) about the complexities of the value-added tax. But perhaps we should remind ourselves that VAT was part of the package we had to accept when we entered the Common Market.

It replaced the much simpler purchase tax in which duties on goods were sensible paid once only at the manufacturing or wholesale stage. VAT is for fiscal purposes what the common agricultural policy is for agriculture, a bureaucratic millstone.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID IRONS,
Byron Hydred, Llanbadarn,
Menai Bridge, Gwynedd.
December 16.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

No-fault medical compensation

From Mrs Margaret Puxon, QC

Sir, The principle of no-fault compensation (leading article, December 12) sounds a fine, liberal piece of "common justice". But to whom is this justice to be extended? To the victims of medical accidents alone, it appears; but what of the innocent victims of road traffic accidents, unable to obtain compensation unless they prove negligence on the part of another road user?

The child, brain-damaged in a road accident, may need as much care and suffer as great a loss of amenity as one similarly damaged during the birth process or by a hypoxic incident during anaesthesia; and he may have to go through years of legal process to obtain damages which will only be awarded on proof that his sufferings were directly caused by the defendant's negligence.

This is a funny kind of justice. So we must ask *cui bono?* Can it be that those who favour no-fault compensation in medical cases are considering the interests of the doctor or, to be fair, the protection of the doctor/patient relationship, rather than the general public good with equal treatment for all?

In January 1989, in collaboration with the Royal Society of Medicine, a symposium on the subject was held in London, during which the BMA described, in detail, how such a system could be operated. A report on its likely cost, on the lines proposed by the association, should be ready for publication in early January.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BOLT (Chairman,
No-fault compensation
working party),
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1.

From Miss Ruth E. Allen

Sir, Miss Sarah Leigh states (December 13) that "each child with cerebral palsy is an overwhelming disaster for its family, for the health service and above all for itself".

Initially, the knowledge of a child having cerebral palsy must be devastating for all the family, but this is not the case. Positive thought, action and attitude are important and the disability may not be overall. There are several degrees of cerebral palsy and many variations as to the level of handicap. Coping with them is relative to the difficulties experienced.

Although having cerebral palsy myself I am fortunate enough not to be "disabled" by it at all, having a responsible position in a full-time capacity, and with good career prospects.

I do not think any compensation scheme should take that level of risk without becoming unreasonably

police action? Will not the delinquents be left in a position to renew their depredations whenever they judge the time to be ripe? And, if so, does the restricted objective outweigh the casualties its pursuit will entail?

Our answer will depend on the value we set on the slow and often disintegrating process of creating a world order. I am inclined to think myself that giving effect to the welcome new decisiveness of the UN is crucially important, even though the resolution does not go as far as we wished.

Where police action is concerned we do not ordinarily ask if the result will justify the cost of the action because we take the supreme importance of maintaining law and order for granted. In the present case, however, there are questions that demand answers.

Do the UN resolutions go far enough? If the international force succeeds in expelling the Iraqis from Kuwait but, being restricted by the UN, does not go on to disarm them, can that be regarded as effective?

Yours faithfully,
G. BENTLEY,
5 The Cloisters,
Windsor Castle, Berkshire.
December 21.

From Mr R. A. Cummings

Sir, The potential to make huge sums of money for the arts, recreation and research by establishing a national lottery ("Moves towards national lottery gathering pace", December 21) is probably an exaggerated dream. Accurate performance figures for most of the world's lotteries are published annually by the International Association of State Lotteries. While these figures are impressive, they cannot be used to extrapolate the possible performance of a national lottery in the UK.

Most national lotteries have a sole monopoly of legal gambling. In the UK, where almost every form of gambling is allowed, the public's gambling habits are highly stable and well served by established organisations.

Where lotteries have been introduced, after long periods of total gambling prohibition, as in America, their instant success can be understood. In North America a debate has been going on in a number of states and provinces

about spending the lottery proceeds on the arts.

The predominant American lottery player is from socio-economic groups C1 and C2 whereas the American audience for the arts is predominantly socio-economic group A, who least support their state lotteries. Local politicians of a populist persuasion argue, why should an elite audience be subsidised by those who would benefit more if the lottery profits were spent on more generally used services?

In 1980 you published a Mori poll indicating a public preference for health care to receive the profits from any proposed national lottery. This seems to indicate that the American idea that the players should have some indirect benefit from their "folly" would also have strong support in the UK.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. CUMMINGS
(Executive Director),
NHS Loto,
National Hospital Trust,
119 Horseley Fields,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands.
December 21.

Legal aid work

From Mr Martin Kurrein

Sir, The public will be understandably concerned at today's report (December 13) on the number of solicitors who are withdrawing from legal aid practice. It is, in fact, only solicitors who are entitled to refuse to accept instructions for legally-sided clients.

It is a fundamental principle of practice for all barristers, as defined in the code of conduct of the Bar of England and Wales, that

... he must in any field in which he professes to practise and irrespective of whether his client is privately or is legally aided or otherwise publicly funded: (a) accept any brief to appear before a court... (b) accept

any instructions... (c) act for any person...

Any breach of this rule amounts to professional misconduct, for which a barrister may be reported.

As solicitors and barristers are the sole legal professionals who have rights of audience in the courts of this country, may we expect those solicitors who wish to exercise those rights to be bound by similar rules, or will the rights of the ordinary person be further eroded by the Treasury's parsimony and the greed of those solicitors (unlike many I know with substantial and profitable legal aid practices) who decline such work?

Yours,
MARTIN KURREIN,
2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4.

Italians seen as good Europeans

From the Ambassador of Italy

Sir, One of your leader writers ("O Sole Mio?", December 13) went recently to Italy and was surprised to see so many Fiat cars, so



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
December 24: The Prince of Wales arrived at Royal Air Force Marham this morning from Saudi Arabia.
Major-General Sir Chris

topher Airey and Commander Richard Aylard, RN, were in attendance.
December 25: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

Birthdays today

Miss Anne Armstrong, American diplomat, 63; Viscount Astor, 39; Sir Gordon Brunton, former president, International Thomson Organisation, 69; Captain N.F. Crump, racehorse trainer, 80; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Thomas Devitt, shipbroker and former rugby player, 88; Miss Marlene Dietrich, actress, 86; Professor Brian Grimsthorpe, life peer, economist, 49; Air Chief Marshal Sir Derek Hodgkinson, 73.

The Earl of Inchcape, 73; Viscount Knutsford, 64; Miss Pat Moss, former rally driver, WRAC, 87.

Recession a catalyst for church action

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE ROLE of the church will become more crucial if governments make economic cuts to weather a recession in the West, according to a Church of England report which addresses some of the problems of inner city regeneration.

The gospel teachings of love, justice, peace and integrity must be related to the reality of efficiency and profitability, especially when focused on the needs and aspirations of inner cities, the report says.

A combination of spiritual criteria and practical concepts could help transform inner cities, according to the report. The Rev Chris Beales, the author, calls for new ideas to bring about "the changes that are so urgently needed."

Mr Beales, secretary of the Industrial and Economic Affairs Committee of the General Synod's Board for Social Responsibility, says: "My experience of too many projects in urban priority areas has been that there are already enough car repairers,

Mainstream and Marginal: Creating Economic Change in Inner City Life, £1.35 Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1 3NZ.

Passing-out parade at Dartmouth

Vice-Admiral Sir Kenneth Eaton, Controller of the Navy, took the salute at the passing-out parade at the Britannia Royal Naval College on December 20.

Officers passing out:

General List
Acting Sub Lieutenants P.A. Brown; C. Greener; J.P. Ryan; S. Sweeney.

Midshipmen: J.W. Arwell; M.C. Bird; B. Boyle; J.W. Bradford; R. Cartlidge; T. Dearman; K. E. Dredge; M.J. Ketterson; K. Macaulay; C.A. Murdoch; M.R. Offord; D. Patterson; A.M. Pyne; D.J. Skinner; B.M. Stephen; M.T. Tomlin; S.M. Williamson; D.M. Wilman; P.J. Wynell-Sutherland.

Supplementary List
Acting Sub Lieutenants: N.M. Bennett; M.C. Best; S.W. Hamilton; S. Lowes.

Midshipmen: N.J. Addison; R. Allen; A.D. Bissell; D.D. Buckley; C.L. Chapman; J.R. Childs; P.A. Clarke; S.P. Connolly; S. Craggs; P.G. Douglas; J.H. De Salaberry; Lewis; F.M. Dolah; W.A. Fletcher; A.M. Flower; R.R. Forman; R.P. Goodbody; D.Z. Gosling; H.I. Gunn; J.A. Haine; C.S. Hall; M.I. Hamilton; A. Hartley; L.S. Heady; J. Hider; C.M. Hodges; J.G. Hughes; T.O. Hughes; C. Hurndall; R.J. Linton; C. Lovick; H.A. Muntz; M.A. Nichols; I.M. O'Farrell; P. Pugh; K. Reever; S. Reid; T.J. Sandford; J.C. Sherman; R.J. Smallwood; S.R. Speirs; S.J. Wallace; I.F. Webb.

Supplementary List (Air)
Acting Sub Lieutenants: D.A. Fielder; S.J. Hill; D.J. Lindsay; S.J. Riz Husain.

OBITUARIES

FOY KOHLER

Mr Foy D. Kohler, United States ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1962 to 1966, died in hospital in Jupiter, Florida, on December 23 aged 82. He was born on February 15, 1908.

FOY Kohler had been in Moscow as US ambassador for less than a month when the Cuban missile crisis broke, involving him in important liaison work as tensions between the American and Soviet leadership mounted. Kohler had been sent to Washington by President Kennedy to keep open channels of communication at a difficult time. He had deep experience of eastern Europe, spoke Russian and was well known to the Soviet leader, Mr Khrushchev, whom he had accompanied on his tour of the United States in 1959. Kohler had also been a member of the Berlin task force during the crisis over the city in 1961.

In October 1962 President Kennedy informed the American people that the Soviet Union had placed offensive missiles in Cuba and ordered United States warships to intercept Soviet ships bound there. Kohler became a conduit for the intensive backstage diplomacy that followed, as fears of a head-on clash between the two super powers mounted. In the upshot this diplomacy enabled Khrushchev to climb down from his publicly stated position and recall the missiles from Cuba, and Kennedy's assurance that Cuba would, in consequence, be safe from American attack, defused a most dangerous crisis in relations between East and West, which had at moments seemed to threaten the world with the spectre of nuclear war.

Foy David Kohler was a far cry from the tall, elegant Ivy League-educated animal to



which the world had become accustomed in American diplomats at that date. He was born in Oakwood, Ohio, and took degrees at Toledo and Ohio State universities. He was a stocky man with an accent often described as "flat as the plains of northern Ohio". He entered the US foreign service in 1931 and after a series of postings including Bucharest, Belgrade and Athens, spent some time at the American embassy in London during the war. From 1946 onwards he was more or less directly concerned with Soviet affairs. After attending the conference at San Francisco which resulted in the birth of the United Nations, he went in 1948 as suc-

sively, first secretary, counsellor and minister to the US embassy in Moscow. This experience, allied to his knowledge of Russian and the Russian psychology, made him realise that patient determination was an essential component of all dealing with the Soviet Union. In 1949 he was brought back from Moscow and put in charge of expanding the overseas broadcasting of Voice of America.

In 1958 he became deputy assistant secretary of state for European affairs and he retired from

diplomacy soon afterwards and from 1968 to 1980 he taught at the University of Miami's graduate centre for advanced foreign studies. He published a number of books on the Soviet Union including *Understanding the Russians: a citizen's primer* (1970) and a number of jointly written studies on Soviet strategy. *Salt II: how not to negotiate with the Russians* appeared in 1979 and encapsulated much of his wisdom on the topic.

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Archaeology

Wheeler's concept of the great Indus empire is challenged

By NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

UNDERSTANDING of South Asia's first civilisation has been drastically changed by the discovery of lost cities in the Indus basin. What had been seen as a great empire with twin capitals 360 miles apart now seems more likely to have been a mosaic of regional states, more like early civilisations elsewhere.

The cities of Harappa and Mohenjodaro were first noted by archaeologists early this century in what is now Pakistan, and the striking parallels between them in layout and material culture recorded. Excavations by Sir John Marshall between the wars were followed by a campaign directed by Sir Mortimer Wheeler, when he was the last Director General of Archaeology in undivided India in the 1940s.

Wheeler promoted the model of an "Indus Civilisation", with Mohenjodaro as the southern and Harappa the northern capital, flourishing between about 2500 and 1700 BC and in contact with the civilisations of Mesopotamia and Iran. The area of the Indus culture was the largest of any ancient polity, but the lack of monumental sculpture and inscriptions gave the society an oddly anonymous quality; not only were its rulers unidentified, but there were no palaces or statues to indicate that they had ever reigned.

Over the past 30 years the chronology and economy of the Indus cities has become better understood, and although the only writing, on stone seals, remains undeciphered it seems likely to identify individuals and to be in a Dravidian script. In spite of the discovery and excavation of a third city, at Kalibangan in India, in the 1960s, the political model of the twin-centred empire has remained widely accepted.

That view has now been challenged by Dr Rafique Mughal, director of archaeology for northern Pakistan, who points out that at least three other large cities once existed, and that they are rather regularly spaced through the Indus basin. One of them, Ganeriwala on the now dry Hakra River in Cholistan, is larger than Harappa's estimated 76 hectares (190 acres), and at 81.5 ha (204 acres) only slightly smaller than Mohenjodaro.

Ganeriwala is midway between the two well known cities, while Rakhigarhi lies an equal distance east of Harappa in the Haryana state of India, and also lies on what was once the Hakra drainage. Like the other cities, it has two mounds, together covering 80 hectares (200 acres). Limited excavations have shown that the smaller mound has some three metres of deposits, including pottery dating back to the beginning of the Indus culture.

These two important sites,



Sir Mortimer Wheeler: promoter of the Indus Civilisation.

together with Kalibangan downstream from Rakhigarhi, show that the upper Indus plain was studied with substantial communities each large enough to be a capital. Dr Mughal's earlier surveys in the Ghaggar valley, a branch of the same dry river system, located numerous smaller sites indicating a once flourishing region that died as the water supply vanished.

In the southern area of the Indus basin, Dr Mughal notes, the city of Kotada lies on an island in the Great Rann of Kutch, close to the Pakistan border. "Kotada is a strongly fortified city spreading over a total area of more than 40 hectares [100 acres]. It consists of an inner acropolis or citadel, integral with a 'middle town' and surrounded by double ramparts with stone gates." Dr Mughal says.

"Likewise, the major cities cannot be regarded as administrative 'capitals' of the Indus 'Empire'. The fortified towns along the coast certainly had different functions from the cities in the plains of Punjab and Sind."

The picture now emerging, Dr Mughal says, renders the traditional notion of the twin capitals of a unitary empire untenable.

Source: *Journal of Central Asia* 13: 155-162.

ON THIS DAY

1932

THE FIRST ROYAL CHRISTMAS BROADCAST
At the time there were about five million wireless licences, but tens of millions heard his homely address delivered in a warm, strong and resonant voice.

THE KING TO HIS PEOPLE

The most notable event of Christmas took place on Christmas Day at 3.5 p.m., when his Majesty the King broadcast from Sandringham a message of greeting to his subjects in all parts of the Empire.

The King said: Through one of the marvels of modern science, I am enabled this Christmas Day to speak to all my peoples throughout the Empire. I take it as a good omen that wireless has reached its present perfection at a time when the Empire has been linked in closer union, for it offers us immense possibilities to make that union closer still.

It may be that our future will lay upon us more than one stern test. Our past will have taught us how to meet it unbroken. For the present the work to which we are all equally bound is to arrive at a reasoned tranquillity within our borders, to regain prosperity without self-seeking, and to carry with those whom the burden of past years has disheartened or overtaxed.

My life's aim has been to serve as I might towards those ends. Your loyalty, your confidence in me, has been my abundant reward. I speak now from my home and from my heart to you all; to men and women so cut off by the snows, the desert, or the sea that only voices out of the air can reach them; to those cut off from fuller life by blindness, sickness, or infirmity, and to those who are celebrating this day with their children and their grandchildren - to all,

to each, I wish a happy Christmas. God bless you.

The King spoke from a small room on the ground floor of Sandringham House and members of the Royal Family at Sandringham for Christmas had heard the message on a receiving set in another room. Prince George was prevented by his feverish cold from joining the Sandringham Christmas party. He heard his father's broadcast while in his sick room at York House, St. James's Palace.

At Sandringham the B.B.C. engineers had installed special apparatus. Through the Sandringham House telephone exchange the microphones in his Majesty's room were connected with land lines allocated to carry the speech to Broadcasting House in London. Thence, after appropriate amplification, the signals were distributed through the network of B.B.C. lines to all the transmitting stations throughout the country as well as to the two new short-wave Empire transmitters at Daventry.

In the Control Room at the International Telephone Exchange in Carter Lane picked operators dealt with the various messages as if they were engaged on their normal daily duties. A time signal was sent to all points at 1.45 p.m. and a synchronized clock and stop watches thereafter indicated the passage of time to the exact second.

The King's message was received on the trunk exchange above, and was then passed to a "test bay" in the control room. Thence it was sent on to the operators a few yards away, seated in front of delicate instruments which, by means of a needle, showed automatically whether the volume of sound passing over was too strong or of not sufficient power.

The Dramatic Control Panel at Broadcasting House was used for the production of the whole programme, the various telephone circuits being connected up to it just as a number of studios are connected to it for a broadcast of a radio play. The whole of the programme was recorded by Blithophone.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Schizophrenia and stress

Despite reports to the contrary Sophia Sutcliffe is as likely to have been the victim of inherent weaknesses in her own psyche as of her husband's behaviour, her alleged hounding by the press, or the tensions of the recent libel case. These incidents probably only provoked a response which was already predictable.

There was evidence during Mrs Sutcliffe's long engagement to her husband that she was psychiatrically fragile. Its strain resulted in a "nervous breakdown" which was diagnosed as being due to schizophrenia. Schizophrenic persons are often attracted to each other; her husband is now in Broadmoor suffering from this disease.

Acute episodes of schizophre-

nia can be provoked by emotional landmarks in a patient's life, such as marriage, pregnancy, loss of job or bereavement, and also by illnesses. Relapses can be induced by similar episodes if the tension becomes too great. Few things could be more trying for a patient with a history of schizophrenia than having to live through the trial and imprisonment of a spouse.

Although detailed statistics differ, most authorities agree that between a third and a quarter of schizophrenic patients make an apparent recovery from an acute episode; in the others, the recovery is limited, and with it their ability to face the changes and chances of this fleeting world. All agree that the outcome is better when a case has a

sudden onset, or when it is a reaction to a definite event, or if there is a good response to treatment.

Relapse is less likely if the patient has some insight, and can be persuaded to take long-term anti-psychotic drugs, and to reorganise his or her life to minimise stress — institutional life is ideal. Many of the traditional eccentric Oxbridge dons beloved by Victorians and Edwardians seem to have had obvious schizoid personalities, with difficulties in relationships, excessive sensitivity and obsessive beliefs.

Patients who do not make a complete recovery tend to be apathetic and withdrawn. In lay terms they are often described as "very private people". It matters little if they keep themselves to themselves, wear odd clothing, neglect their appearance, or even if their time-keeping becomes chaotic as they change night into day, but they can be more difficult to tolerate if they become obsessed by extreme political views and causes, or if they develop delusions of grandeur or persecution.

Mrs Sutcliffe on her own admission is emotionally destroyed; she has displayed an obvious obsession with litigation, sometimes a manifestation of a persecutory delusion. Her failure to show any response to the jury's verdict was at best unexpected, or emotionally inappropriate. She should be encouraged to retreat, hidden by her dark spectacles, into the private life for which she yearns.



Brans Morters

Calming those gut feelings

While it is rare not to survive days of mince pies, turkey and Christmas pudding, even when coupled with the strong drinks sometimes needed to dissolve family feuds, there are casualties. The ulcer which had been quiet for years starts to play up, the hiatus hernia with its accompanying oesophagitis makes its presence known by waves of heartburn. Indigestion in all its forms is rife during the season of goodwill, but above all

overeating causes symptoms of oesophageal reflux: pain and heartburn which have resulted from the acid stomach contents tipping over on to the lining of the oesophagus (the gullet), a surface which was never designed to withstand acidity. This season of dyspepsia is an appropriate time for Reckitt & Colman to announce that it has improved the formula of Gaviscon, perhaps the best-known reflux suppressant.

Gaviscon, in common with



other reflux suppressants, contains alginic acid, combined with aluminium hydroxide, magnesium trisilicate and sodium bicarbonate. The mixture forms an acid raft which floats around on the surface of the gastric contents, thereby bathing the inflamed walls of the stomach and oesophagus. The sodium bicarbonate produces bubbles, which increase the buoyancy of the raft. Reckitt & Colman claims that the Gaviscon raft is more than four times stronger than the raft produced by standard BPC preparations, so strong that it not only acts as a balm for the inflamed tissue, but prevents the gastric contents escaping into the oesophagus.

Smith, Kline and French also manufactures a novel alginic acid reflux suppressant; the preparation, Aligitec, combines alginic acid with its well-tried H₂ blocker, Tagamet, thereby reducing acid secretion as well as providing an antacid balm for the inflamed surfaces.

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magazine *Medical Monitor* that rather than dramatic treatments such as adrenaline injections and cardiac massage, the patient with hypothermia needs immediate covering with blankets or greatcoats, and movement to a warm environment as soon as possible.

Chill warning

The first cold snap of the winter has been followed by the inevitable lengthening of the obituary columns in the newspapers. Exposure to cold does not always strike at once; the number of heart attacks (coronary thromboses) peaks 24 hours after exposure to chilling, and of strokes, three days later. Work at the Royal London hospital has shown that exposure to cold for a short time can often be tolerated; 20 minutes, time enough usually to wait for a bus, seems to be about the safe limit of tolerance.

Professor William Keeting, a London University expert on climate and disease, warns in the

magazine *Medical Monitor* that rather than dramatic treatments such as adrenaline injections and cardiac massage, the patient with hypothermia needs immediate covering with blankets or greatcoats, and movement to a warm environment as soon as possible.

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DANCE

New turn to an old favourite

HERE is another competitor for the apparently inexhaustible Christmas ballet audience. Where else to take the family when the pantomimes are thin on the ground?

English National Ballet's Festival Hall Nutcracker is the one with some of the music omitted but other pieces of Tchaikovsky uncomfortably spliced in, to fit a revised story that awkwardly tries to identify most of the characters with the composer and his family. Luckily, that aspect is easily ignored when there is a performance of Tchaikovsky/Drosselmeyer as superingly insipid as James Sperver's on Saturday.

This is the first that London has seen of the company since Ivan Nagy took charge as artistic director with a revised staff and a company substantially changed at its upper levels. His strongest card is the presence of Yelena Pankova as guest dancer, although other roles should make more of her gift for characterising classical roles.

Her phrasing of the Sugar Plum Fairy's solo could do with some help from Alicia Markova, who first staged it for Peter Schaufuss's production, and Pankova broadens some steps which would benefit from more delicacy. She may well gain from her time here as much as the company.

Her partner was one of the new recruits, Jose Manuel Carreno, from Cuba, making his debut early because of a colleague's illness. He gave sure support, although not quite tall enough for her. He is handsome and subtle with an attractive personality and a sound technique (especially showy pirouettes), although his landings were bumpy.

The only other outstanding performances were the vigorous Russian *trepak* (no better danced than in the Covent Garden production, but much more stirringly presented) and Alexander Grant's comedy turn as master of ceremonies for the Divertissement. Judgement of the company as a whole under its new command had better be suspended, although the farcical playing of the battle with the mice, especially Seth Gilbert's glibbering Mouse King, is an alarming symptom.

JOHN PERCIVAL

GALLERIES

Happy marriage of form and content

André Kertesz's photography and two centenary shows for David Bomberg, reviewed by John Russell Taylor

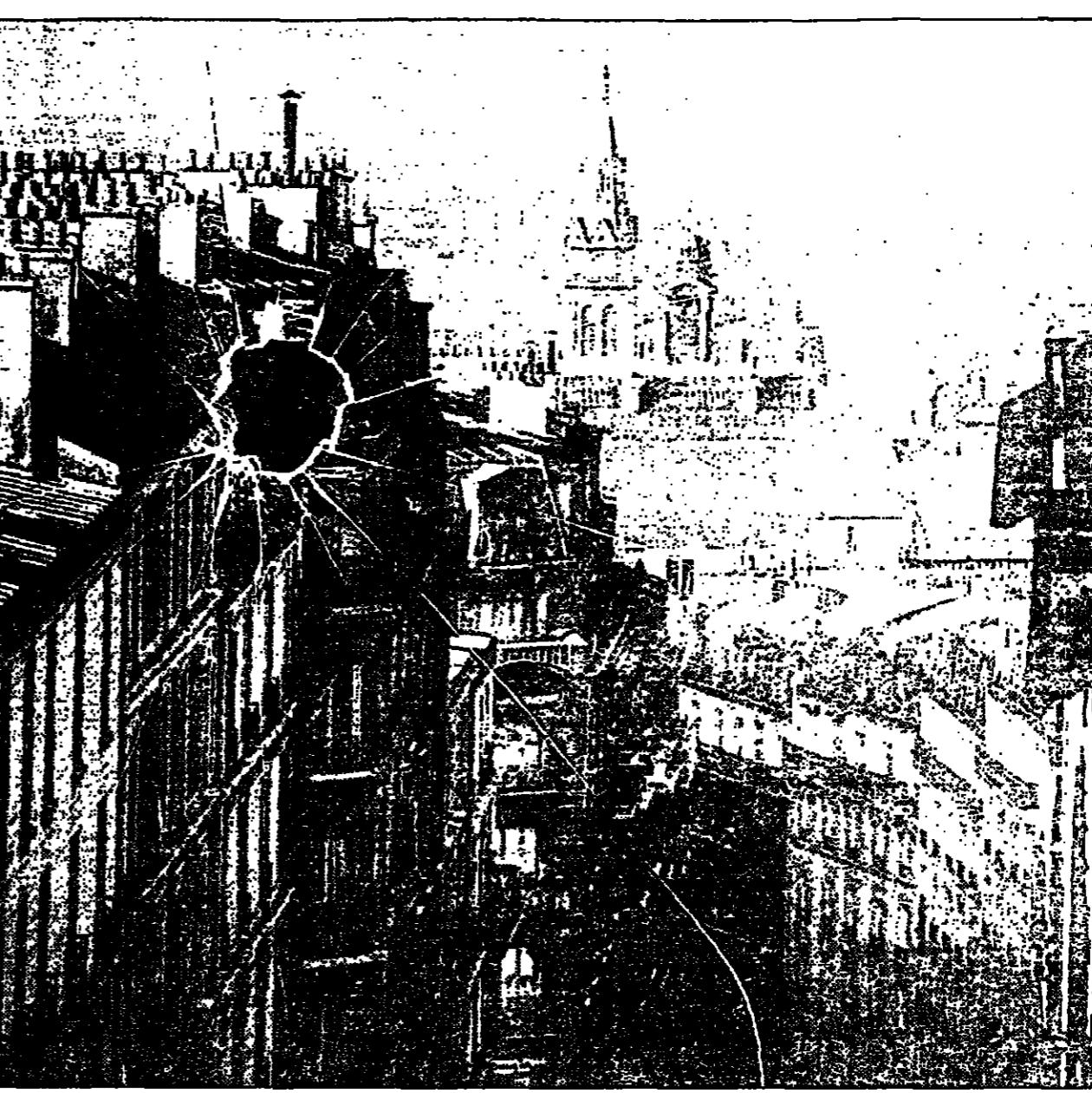
At the end of a year which has re-affirmed the continuing usefulness and feasibility of mammoth international touring shows, it is fitting to salute yet another. True, André Kertesz: Diary of Light, 1912-1985 at the Barbican Concours Gallery is not in any apparent way comparable with the recent blockbusters devoted to Van Gogh, Monet, Hals, Velázquez and such. It is "only" about a photographer, taking up much less space, involving less expense to tour and insure, and qualifying merely for a free-entry presentation in one of the Barbican Centre's leftover spaces. But it has been organised by the International Center of Photography in New York, it is in the midst of an extensive international tour, and in overall artistic quality it need fear no comparison.

Among the thousands of exhibited photographs there are still relatively few who can be accepted without question as artists. André Kertesz is one of that select band. He was born Hungarian in 1894 (curious that so many distinguished photographers have been of Hungarian origin), and went to Paris in 1923 and New York in 1936. Photographic historians of a psychological bent have perceived in his American work an exile syndrome of progressive withdrawal; why else, the hypothesis goes, are so many of his most famous photographs taken from a high angle, like views from an ivy tower?

One thing that this comprehensive show, covering his whole lengthy career, demonstrates is that there is a surprising consistency in his three main periods. He was, from the outset, fascinated by the geometry of a scene. Perhaps some of his most striking pictures do look rather distant from street-level human concerns. But this was only one side of his interests. There are many wonderfully warm and interested depictions of people, right from early pictures, such as "An Affectionate Touch", in which a peasant walking across a field with his wife or girlfriend casually and unself-

The major centenary of the year — it has been impossible to forget it — was that of Van Gogh's death. It was also the centenary of Egon Schiele's birth, and possibly (no one knows for certain) the 500th anniversary of Titian's birth. By comparison with these, David Bomberg, born in 1890, is a parochial figure: though he has been increasingly accepted recently as one of the towering figures in British art, the reputation awaits international consecration. His centenary has not been marked by even a minor museum show.

There are, however, two shows in commercial galleries. The emphasis in both is on Bomberg as a landscape artist.



A broken negative, giving a powerful image of disruption: "Paris, 1929" by André Kertesz, from the show at the Barbican Concours Gallery

The oils at Bernard Jacobson are all landscapes, attesting to his interest in the form almost throughout his career. The strongest work is in the middle: in the wonderful paintings and drawings of Ronda with its unforgettable gorge, from the Thirties and the Fifties, or the astounding drawings of war-torn London after the blitz. Here the emotion informs the realistic observation without overwhelming it. On either side there is danger: the Palestine paintings of the early Twenties seem too like set tasks, and some of the later paintings are so dominated by the painter's turbulent feelings

that they lose coherence. Difficult man as he no doubt was, Bomberg deserved more consistent notice during his lifetime. If he had received that, his career would probably not have see-sawed so wildly.

The impression received from the show of works on paper at Gillian Jason is of someone who, if things had fallen out slightly differently, might have made a commanding figure of the establishment. He could do so many things well: not only the memorable landscapes, but the sketches connected with his main works of the first

world war and the early pictures of the Yiddish theatre, where he shows an enviable facility for turning people into patterns without dehumanising them. Bomberg did all sorts of things with apparent lack of self-consciousness. Michael Ayrton, a much younger artist with attitudes shaped by the second world war rather than the first, seems to have set out quite deliberately to deserve the title of "renaissance man". Painter, print-maker, illustrator, theatre designer, sculptor, novelist, critic: he was all these things, and to a degree did all of them well.

The sculptures, obsessed with his favourite themes such as the maze, the *doppelgänger* and Icarus, are adept but somehow synthetic, and some of the paintings, especially later on, hardly steer clear of kitsch. But the earlier, Neo-Romantic paintings are sometimes magical and throughout his career he remained a master of line.

If he had remained happy to be a fine illustrator and brilliant stage designer, there would be virtually nothing to say against him. But like his own Icarus, he was fated to fly too near the sun. Knowing one's own capacities and stick-

ing to them is usually better for the artist.

André Kertesz, Concours Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 071-588 9023 daily 12-7.30, until Jan 21.

David Bomberg: Landscapes, Bernard Jacobson, 14a Clifford Street, W1 (071-995 8575) Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-1, Jan 2-19.

David Bomberg: Works on Paper, Gillian Jason, 42 Inverness Street, NW1 (071-267 4835) Tues-Sat 10.30-6, Jan 2-Jan 11.

Michael Ayrton, Austin/Desmond Fine Art, 15a Bloomsbury Square, WC1 (071-242 4423) Mon-Fri 10.30-6.30, Sat 10.30-2.30, Jan 2-Jan 19.

TIM BISHOP

THEATRE

Tie that binds art to real life

Theatre-in-education still has a role to play in schools, argues Joseph Williams

articulates one main argument for drama education: "Teachers are amazed when a pupil speaks up in class for the first time. The theatre taps children in areas that academic subjects cannot always reach."

Many of the pupils from Thomas Tallis mixed comprehensive who watched the production had never entered a theatre before. The play examines how lives were shattered by Nazism: its themes of racism and betrayal are brought up-to-date through bitter-sweet cabaret songs. This is not exactly light-hearted fare for 15-year-olds, but the audience never loses their sense of fun. The actors fling moral dilemmas at the young audience: "Did Trude have a choice? Could she have changed her mind?" Later at school, teachers use a hefty educational pack provided by the company to stimulate a historical discussion.

"Young people have a right to a broad education as possible," argues Chris Vine, director of Greenwich YPT. "Teachers tell us that our work is a springboard: for another six weeks of edu-

cation." Greenwich council has been charge-capped, and cutting drama education is regarded as a convenient way of saving money.

"Next April will see a tidal wave of closures of young people's theatre," says Steve Nolan, a member of Coventry's Belgrave TIE company. The latest casualty is York's YPT, which has folded after its parent company — Theatre Royal, York — reluctantly embarked on a cost-cutting exercise. "Theatre Royal was £250,000 in deficit," says YPT director Anthony Ravenhill, who is now trying to fund an independent YPT in York. "In their reaction was to axe our company."

But TIE is now an issue itself. Some repertory theatres are axing their own YPT companies in order to keep the main theatres open. Greenwich YPT lies in limbo this Christmas, awaiting a £60,000 slash to its basic funding from Greenwich Borough Council, throwing the company's future into doubt.

Carole Lythgoe, playing

Trude in the production,

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Eren Zekiroglu and Rachel Bennett of the Greenwich Young People's Theatre during *The Great Illusion*

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NEW RELEASES

ALMOST AN ANGEL (PG): Crocodile Dundee star Paul Hogan as a professional thief who believes he's returned from the dead to do good deeds. People excursion into supernatural whimsy director John Cornell with Linda Kozlowski
Camden Estate Street (071-835 9772)
Postman: 071-370 3889; Oxford Street (071-455 0210)

FANTASIA (U): Disney's famous musical collection of cartoon classics: flowers between the seasons, the clever and the dastardly cult. With Mickey Mouse as the Sorcerer's Apprentice, music played by Leopold Stokowski and the Philadelphia Orchestra. Camden Parkway (071-257 7024) Curzon Brudenell Avenue (071-535 6891) Screen on the Green (071-222 0320)

THE MAHABHARATA (U): Three-hour epic drama based on the Indian war which dives into ancient legends about the history of the world. Visually drab, though the material gradually compels attention. Barbican (071-538 8851)

CURRENT

AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE (15): Jane Campion's acclaimed film about the New Zealand writer Jane Fonda. Renold (071-357 8420)

BLUE STEEL (18): Tough, blood-spattered police thrillers. From the female slant from the men's genre. Criterion Oxford Street (071-636 0310)
Odeon: Kennington (071-602 6645/45)
Mezzanine (071-630 6111)

COME SEE THE PARADISE (15): Alan Parker's romantic drama about the American treatment of the Japanese after Pearl Harbor. Curzon Soho (071-730 8800)
Odeon Haymarket (071-639 7687)

THE COMFORT OF STRANGERS (16+): Rupert Everett and Neasa Hartigan's touching around Venice, falling into the warped Christopher Walken. Londoner (071-257 7024) Curzon Mayfair (071-479 3737)

A FLATLINES (15): Katee Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between desire and life. Director, John Schlesinger. Curzon: 071-257 7024; Soho (071-538 6149)
Odeon: Kennington (071-602 6645)
Mezzanine (071-630 6111); Swiss Cottage (0428 1109) Whiteladies (071-732 3324)

BOOKENDS: Desperately empty lists of literary titles. Michael Horden and Dennis Lander try to find some content. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-352 0000) Underground: Piccadilly Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; Sun, 9pm. Runs to Dec 29. (Open Jan 1)

THE BOYS NEXT DOOR: Tom Conti's moving view of the mentally ill-educated. Fine acting, with Steve Guttenberg. Transfer from Hampstead. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, W1 (071-352 0000). Underground: Piccadilly Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri, Sat, 8.30pm; Sat, 8pm, 5.30pm. Running time: 2 hrs 10 mins. Ends December 29.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA: Brian Friel's hauntingly beautiful play that brings Donegal Catholic prudery up against the modern world. National (Lyrician), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2232). Underground: Brixton. Tonight, 7.30pm, last today, 2.15pm. Running time: 2 hrs 30 mins.

FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvelous jazz revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. At the Lyceum. 8.30pm, W1 (071-350 3668). Underground: Piccadilly Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins. (Open Jan 1)

GASPING: John Gordon Sinclair and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's grim comedy. Rather off the beat but the best. Phoenix Royal Court, Royal Exchange, WC2 (071-240 9861). Underground: Trafalgar Court Road. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 8pm. 2.30pm. Running time: 2 hrs 30 mins. Ends January 16. (Closed Jan 1)

HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Hannah Gordon and Peter Barkworth in Simon Gray's thought-provoking comedy. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9867). Underground: Charing Cross Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm; mat Sat, 8pm. 5.30pm. Running time: 2 hrs 15 mins. (Open Jan 1)

INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's mix of fairytales, gimmer and Grimm in the last hat, now in the last chair. Phoenix Royal Court, Royal Exchange, WC2 (071-240 9861). Underground: Trafalgar Court Road. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 8pm. 2.30pm. Running time: 2 hrs. 20 mins. (Open Jan 1)

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP: Spoo! Gothic melodrama, ranging between the basically good and the basically bad. Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Thurs, 8pm, Sat, 8pm. Running time: 2 hrs. Ends January 5. (Open Jan 1)

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE: Throughout the 18th and 20th centuries, a substantial amount of British archaeology was devoted to investigating the truth of the Bible. A fascinating story, thrown up all sorts of unexpected delights as by-products, is well told in this show. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-363 1556), 10am-5pm.

EGON SCHIELE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES: In the past 30 years Schiele has become the Master of painting. His work, once derided, is now widely popular. An exhibition of reproduction Rudolf Leopold of Vienna has been a major collector and the selection of his pictures on show at the Royal Academy. Until Sat, 5pm. Royal Academy, Royal Academy of Art, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438), 10am-5pm.

THE RAIL: The centurions in which the British Railways have invested. Innumerable must-read measurements as well as many fruitful interchanges. The Rail tells the story through posters, documents, furnishings and such. National Railway Museum, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0026), 10am-5pm.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Arden Leigher with pianist Pauline Feuke and the Band of the Grenadier Guards perform a typical Christmas programme featuring the composer's Nutcracker Suite and Swan Lake Suite. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 6691), 7.45pm.

CINDERELLA: London City Ballet has wisely chosen an alternative Christmas choice for its London season. The production, choreographed by Gillian Murphy, is stronger on comedy than on romance and is unashamedly a production for people wanting a fun night out. Laurel designs by John Englekirk. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8919), 7.30pm.

WINNING MOVE

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 18

CATAPLASM

(a) A medicinal compress, bandage, or poultice, like the Greek poult over + plasters to plaster; Umberto Eco: "That is artemis haps; a good cataplasm of fresh roses cures skin eczemas."

PLANTYX

(a) An Irish dance or dance-time, or song or song-time, like a jig but considerably slower, origin obscure, but with that formation it cannot be native Irish: "He leaves at every hospitable manlion a planty, celebrating the virtues, charms, or high descent of the hostess."

EASSEL

(c) Eastward, easterly, to the east. Lowland Scots dialect and language (ballans), the mode of formation is obscure: "O, if ye get to easel and wessel again, I am undone."

SAGATHY

(c) A woollen stuff, origin obscure, but with cognates such as the French sagots, Spanish sagas: "He went about dressed in grey sagathy and woolen stockings."

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and where indicated with the symbol (♦) on release across the country.

Note: Please check with cinemas for changes in opening times during the Christmas week

THE FRESHMAN (PG): Quirky, uneven spot of *The Godfather*, with Martin Scorsese as the mobster and New York film student Andrew Dice Clay as a delivery-boy. Writer-director, Andrew Bergman. Odeon: Kennington (071-602 6645/45) Mezzanine (071-630 6111) Screen on the Green (071-222 0320)

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A FLATLINES (15): Katee Sutherland, Julia Roberts and Kevin Bacon as medical students probing the boundaries between desire and life. Director, John Schlesinger. Curzon: 071-257 7024; Soho (071-538 6149)
Odeon: Kennington (071-602 6645)

BOOKENDS: Desperately empty lists of literary titles. Michael Horden and Dennis Lander try to find some content. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-352 0000) Underground: Piccadilly Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; Sun, 9pm. Runs to Dec 29. (Open Jan 1)

THE BOYS NEXT DOOR: Tom Conti's moving view of the mentally ill-educated. Fine acting, with Steve Guttenberg. Transfer from Hampstead. Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, W1 (071-352 0000). Underground: Piccadilly Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri, Sat, 8.30pm; Sat, 8pm, 5.30pm. Running time: 2 hrs 10 mins. Ends December 29.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA: Brian Friel's hauntingly beautiful play that brings Donegal Catholic prudery up against the modern world. National (Lyrician), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2232). Underground: Brixton. Tonight, 7.30pm, last today, 2.15pm. Running time: 2 hrs 30 mins.

FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE: Marvelous jazz revue packed with Louis Jordan numbers. At the Lyceum. 8.30pm, W1 (071-350 3668). Underground: Piccadilly Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm and 8.45pm. Running time: 1hr 45mins. (Open Jan 1)

GASPING: John Gordon Sinclair and Jim Carter in Ben Elton's grim comedy. Rather off the beat but the best. Phoenix Royal Court, Royal Exchange, WC2 (071-240 9861). Underground: Trafalgar Court Road. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 8pm. 2.30pm. Running time: 2 hrs 30 mins. Ends January 16. (Closed Jan 1)

HIDDEN LAUGHTER: Hannah Gordon and Peter Barkworth in Simon Gray's thought-provoking comedy. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-836 9867). Underground: Charing Cross Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.30pm; mat Sat, 8pm. 5.30pm. Running time: 2 hrs 15 mins. (Open Jan 1)

INTO THE WOODS: Sondheim's mix of fairytales, gimmer and Grimm in the last hat, now in the last chair. Phoenix Royal Court, Royal Exchange, WC2 (071-240 9861). Underground: Trafalgar Court Road. Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 8pm. 2.30pm. Running time: 2 hrs. 20 mins. (Open Jan 1)

THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP: Spoo! Gothic melodrama, ranging between the basically good and the basically bad. Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 6111). Underground: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Thurs, 8pm, Sat, 8pm. Running time: 2 hrs. 20 mins. Ends January 5. (Open Jan 1)

ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE BIBLE: Throughout the 18th and 20th centuries, a substantial amount of British archaeology was devoted to investigating the truth of the Bible. A fascinating story, thrown up all sorts of unexpected delights as by-products, is well told in this show. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-363 1556), 10am-5pm.

EGON SCHIELE AND HIS CONTEMPORARIES: In the past 30 years Schiele has become the Master of painting. His work, once derided, is now widely popular. An exhibition of reproduction Rudolf Leopold of Vienna has been a major collector and the selection of his pictures on show at the Royal Academy. Until Sat, 5pm. Royal Academy, Royal Academy of Art, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438), 10am-5pm.

THE RAIL: The centurions in which the British Railways have invested. Innumerable must-read measurements as well as many fruitful interchanges. The Rail tells the story through posters, documents, furnishings and such. National Railway Museum, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0026), 10am-5pm.

TCHAIKOVSKY EVENING: The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Arden Leigher with pianist Pauline Feuke and the Band of the Grenadier Guards perform a typical Christmas programme featuring the composer's Nutcracker Suite and Swan Lake Suite. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 6691), 7.45pm.

CINDERELLA: London City Ballet has wisely chosen an alternative Christmas choice for its London season.

The production, choreographed by Gillian Murphy, is stronger on comedy than on romance and is unashamedly a production for people wanting a fun night out. Laurel designs by John Englekirk. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8919), 7.30pm.

WINNING MOVE

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 18

CATAPLASM

(a) A medicinal compress, bandage, or poultice, like the Greek poult over + plasters to plaster; Umberto Eco: "That is artemis haps; a good cataplasm of fresh roses cures skin eczemas."

PLANTYX

(a) An Irish dance or dance-time, or song or song-time, like a jig but considerably slower, origin obscure, but with that formation it cannot be native Irish: "He leaves at every hospitable manlion a planty, celebrating the virtues, charms, or high descent of the hostess."

EASSEL

(c) Eastward, easterly, to the east. Lowland Scots dialect and language (ballans), the mode of formation is obscure: "O, if ye get to easel and wessel again, I am undone."

SAGATHY

(c) A woollen stuff, origin obscure, but with cognates such as the French sagots, Spanish sagas: "He went about dressed in grey sagathy and woolen stockings."

Museums, events for children

Indoor fun for youngsters — exhibitions, museums and more. Compiled by Sue Moore

THE ICICLE THIEF (PG): Gently amusing comedy retelling Italian neo-realism and the screening of films on television. Written and directed by, and starring, Maurizio Nichetti — an Italian comic-hugely popular on his home turf. Mews (071-437 0757)

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U): Disney's much-loved version of Hans Christian Andersen's fable. Opened (071-929 7671)

Kensington (071-922 5944/5) Swiss Cottage (071-722 5925) Warner (071-438 0781) Whiteladies (071-732 3303/3324)

METROPOLITAN (15): What William Shatner's wacky, ironic comedy of manners set among New York's celebrities and their spouses over one Christmas holiday. Witty dialogue, engaging young actors, elegant costumes. Curzon Cinema (071-372 5005) Lumière (071-255 0501) Screen on the Hill (071-335 3350)

THE NEVERENDING STORY PART 2 (U): A return to the world of insects. Very popular, the plot is a jungle and an unlikable child actor, Jonathan Brandis, spoils some of the fun. Cannons: Finsbury Road (071-370 2262) Fox's (071-370 2263) Palace: Finsbury Road (071-370 2263) Whiteladies (071-732 3303/3324)

THE PRESUMED INNOCENT (15): Alan Alda's moving, thoughtful version of Scott Turow's bestseller, with Harrison Ford and Grace Slick. Curzon: Finsbury Road (071-370 2262) Fox's (071-370 2263) Lumière (071-255 0501) Screen on the Hill (071-335 3350)

THE SHOOTING STAR (16+): A chilling novel by Paul Bowles) based with a warning issued by Bernardo Bertolucci with John Mahoney and Diane Winger. Odeon: Leicester Square (071-730 6111)

THE SHELTERING SKY (16+): A chilling novel by Paul Bowles) based with a warning issued by Bernardo Bertolucci with John Mahoney and Diane Winger. Odeon: Leicester Square (071-730 6111)

THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES (PG): Funny, chaotic feature-length adventure for the very young. Based on the comic strip of the same name

Chilean judge 'convinced UK journalist was murdered'

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE Chilean judge examining the death of a British journalist in Santiago last March while investigating alleged illegal arms deals has reportedly recommended that the case be upgraded from sudden death to premeditated murder.

Tony Moyle, father of the journalist Jonathan Moyle, said from his home in Devon yesterday that a source in Chile had told him the judge, Alejandro Solis, was convinced his son had not only been murdered but that his death did not have a simple explanation.

The body of Moyle, aged 28, editor of *Defence Helicopter World*, was found hanging by his shirt, with a pillowcase over his head, from the clothes rail in the closet of his Santiago hotel bedroom on 31 March.

Chilean officials initially said that he had committed suicide, but this theory was later rejected. The cramped closet was eight inches shorter than his body and

the door had been shut from the outside. A post-mortem examination found sedatives in Moyle's stomach which he had not been known to take.

Tony Moyle's solicitor in Chile is suing a Chilean arms producer, Industrias Cardoen, for alleged responsibility for the death. Moyle was investigating reports that Iraq had allegedly ordered 50 of the company's helicopters.

Mr Moyle also claims that the company had been making the Stonefish mine, a secret British weapon. British naval intelligence has interviewed him over these allegations.

Mr Moyle said that a man who wants to remain anonymous had accused a former employee of a company Jonathan Moyle was investigating of threatening him the night before his body was found. Mr Moyle added: "I even know the words he used, but I cannot say more about it because the situation is very delicate."

Mr Moyle said that if the judge's recommendation to upgrade the examination was accepted it would entitle him to cross-examine people under oath.

Although the Chilean government now supports the murder theory, Mr Moyle said the British embassy in Santiago was "coy" about saying Jonathan had been killed. He claimed this was because his son had discovered that a large British arms company, which he would not name, had broken various arms embargos and had been doing business with Iraq and South Africa.

David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said last night that he would be tabling questions for the foreign secretary on alleged Chilean arms sales to Iraq. "It is essential that the full truth is known about this murky business and that the British government should make the strongest possible representations to the Chilean authorities," he said.

"We have had an amazing response from the public with people volunteering to go out to the Soviet Union to help. When this sort of thing happens, it is extremely frustrating."

Colin Simmons, the air freight coordinator for the shipping agents Gatwick Handling, confirmed last night that all the aid destined for the Soviet Union had left on the Aeroflot flight on Tuesday. "The cargo is certainly not at Stansted any more; everything here went on that plane," he said.

Express Service, the Soviet freight forwarding company which volunteered to process the gifts, said the aircraft arrived fully loaded, apparently with a mixture of humanitarian and commercial cargo destined for Minsk, but the flight manifest made no mention of food for Moscow.

Food for Russians disappears

Continued from page 1

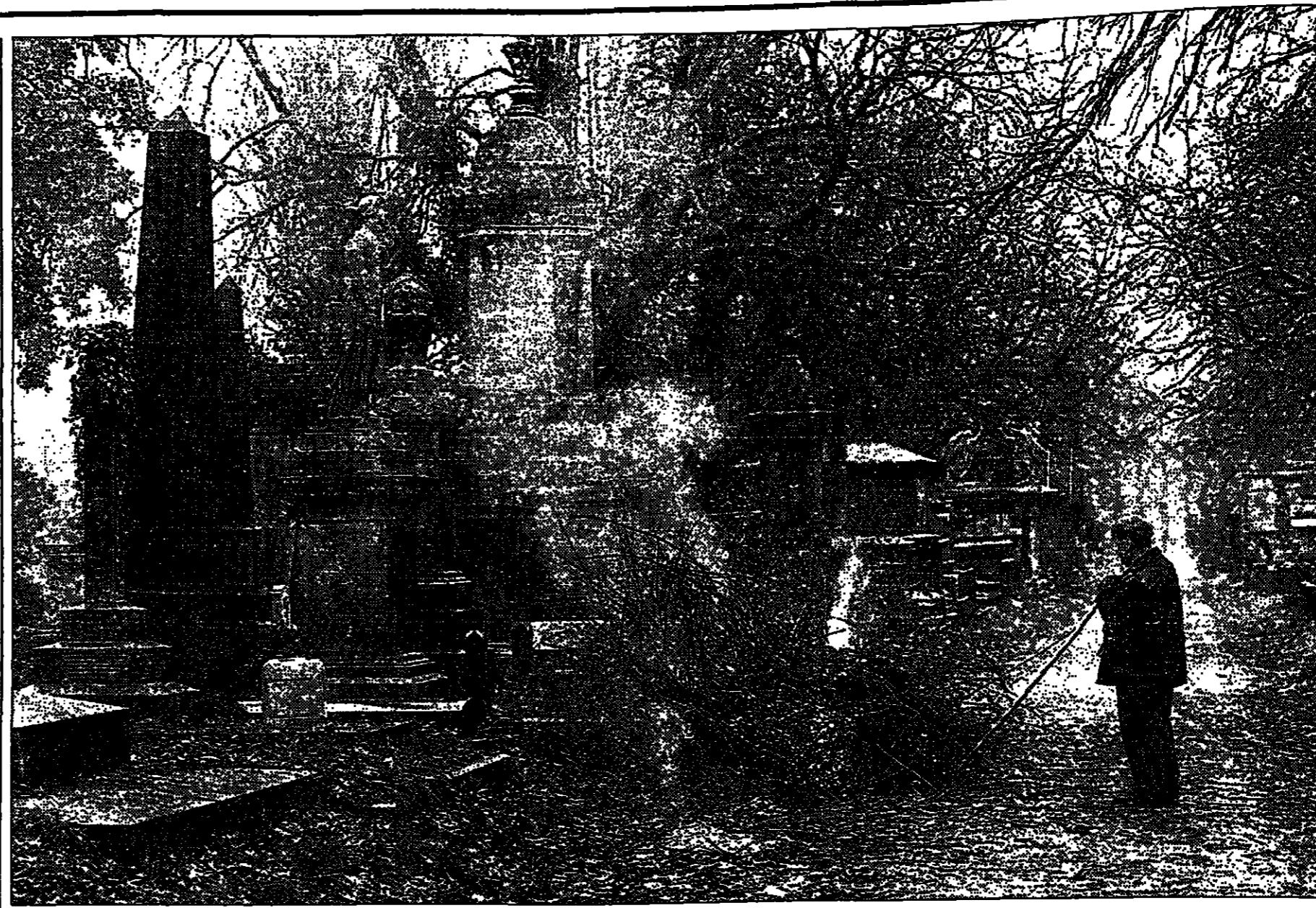
MOSCOW Another 30 tons are due to be sent early in the new year under the appeal run by Jubilee Campaign, a London-based Christian human rights group.

Last night, however, the organisation's director Danny Smith said that the disappearance could jeopardise future consignments. "What happened today is extremely mysterious and a terrific shame," he said.

"We have had an amazing response from the public with people volunteering to go out to the Soviet Union to help. When this sort of thing happens, it is extremely frustrating."

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A workman clearing overgrown graves at Kensal Green, a first step in the large restoration scheme planned by the owner and the friends of the cemetery

£1m plan to restore cemetery's romantic past

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S first private cemetery, Kensal Green, is to be restored in a £1 million scheme to create a memorial park to rival Pére-Lachaise in Paris. The newly-formed Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery have drawn up a landscape plan to restore two

chapels, one for Anglicans and the second for dissenters.

Paul Hoppen, London grants officer for English Heritage which is to help with the project, said: "It is an admirable ambition to return the cemetery to its romantic atmosphere in a sensible and controlled way." English Heritage will provide a grant but most of

the cash will be raised by the friends.

The owner of the cemetery, the General Cemetery Company, has already cleared many graves on the 75-acre site. Michael Nodes, company chairman, said: "We want to recreate the original ambience of the cemetery and we want the friends to take responsi-

bility for that." The cemetery built in 1833 as society's "alternative" resting place, was landscaped by Richard Forrest and the chapels were designed by John Griffiths. In 1842, a visitor wrote in *Ainsworth's Magazine*: "What an escape from the atmosphere of London burial places to the air of Kensal Green - from the choked

charnel-house to that verdant wide expanse, studded with tombs of infinite shapes, and stone-marked graves, covered with flowers of every brilliant dye."

The Duke of Sussex's burial at Kensal Green in 1843 set the seal on the cemetery's social status. He was joined by "members of more than two hundred of the first families in the kingdom," according to an old handbook.

Hackney and Trollope are also buried at Kensal Green, along with three generations of the Brunel family; Babbage, the father of computers; Blondin the tight-rope walker; Wilkie Collins; Leigh Hunt; and many other prominent people.

Julian Litten of the Victoria and Albert Museum, secretary of the friends' advisory committee, said: "This cemetery is almost a landscaped dictionary of national biography. It was never meant to be a place of death but a live memorial park for us to enjoy."

Although past its glory, in 1914 the cemetery was still sufficiently idyllic for G.K. Chesterton to write in his poem *The Rolling English Road*:

For there is good news yet to hear,
and fine things to be seen
Before we go to paradise,
by way of Kensal Green.

Romania deports ex-king for 'cheap stunt'

From TIM JUDAH IN BUCHAREST

THE Romanian government yesterday publicly criticised former King Michael, aged 69, whom it deported in the early hours of the morning after he paid a brief and bizarre visit to his homeland. Bogdan Baltazar, a government spokesman, said: "He came like a thief, lying and physically forcing his way into the country... it was a cheap stunt."

Last night the main extra-parliamentary opposition group, the Civic Alliance, condemned the "abusive expulsion" and called on parliament to invite the king on an official visit to Romania.

King Michael, who was forced

to abdicate by the communists in December 1947, lives in exile in Switzerland. On the evening of Christmas day, he and his wife flew into Bucharest international airport on a private plane. Soon afterwards he left the airport under the impression that he had received a visa. However, just as he was about to be driven off, officials asked for the passports back, saying that they had to put extra stamps into them. An hour later, the government broadcast a communiqué saying that the king had entered the country illegally.

After leaving the airport, the king visited friends in Bucharest and, after problems with a broken-down car, the royal party left for the monastery of Curtea De Arges, the site of his family tomb.

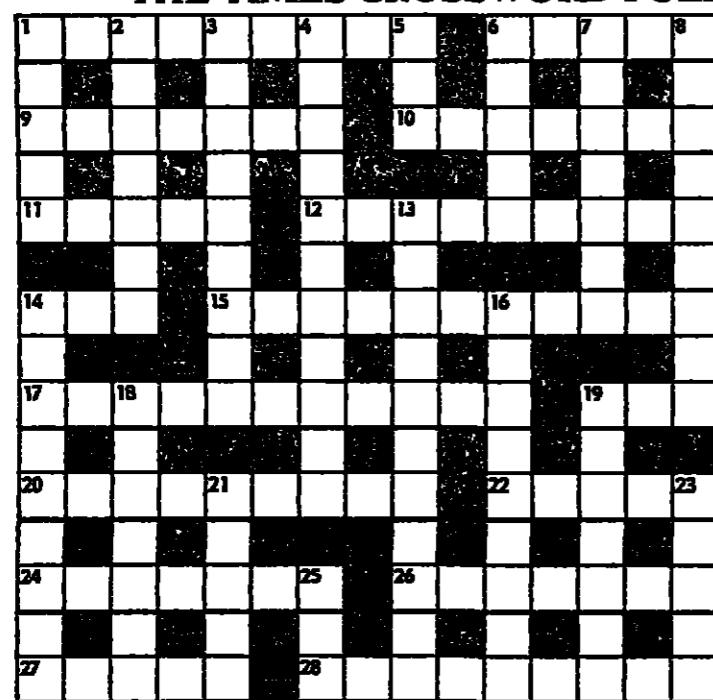
Some 62 miles out of the capital, the king was stopped at a road-block: "It was like Nazi Germany," Princess Margarita, the king's eldest daughter, said in an interview yesterday. "There were soldiers with machine-guns, Securitate, and men that I can only describe as yobs." She added that they were then escorted under guard to Bucharest's Otopeni airport.

The royal party was flown in a military plane to Switzerland, less than 12 hours after they had arrived. As he left, King Michael described his deportation as "a rather sorry state of affairs".

The government claims that he was expelled because he entered the country without a proper visa. Mr Balazs said: "He came on a Danish diplomatic passport. Entry visas for these passports cannot be obtained at the airport." But Princess Margarita said: "That's nonsense. I'm here now on a Danish diplomatic passport and I've never had any trouble getting a visa at the airport."

Man in the news, page 7

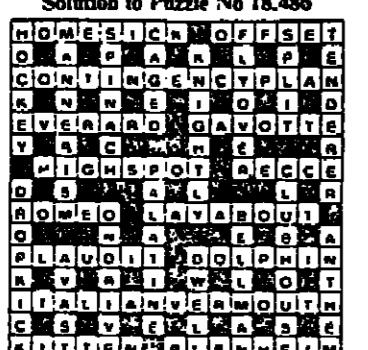
THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,487



ACROSS

- The servant standing behind the 1st Earl of Ypres is a foreigner (9).
- Doctor and accountant drinking hot coffee (5).
- It's said to guard part of a drill moving around (7).
- Alter formation of army pop musicians (7).
- The girl outside is of this fibre! (5).
- Laziness causes no decline, oddly enough (9).
- Might presently exclude border from violent action (3).
- Police in terrible danger – one is thrown in lake (11).
- Unsmiling Australian working in God's acre (5-6).
- It introduces a large number down in the dumps (3).
- Republican leader given donation out of the state (9).
- Gather for a service (5).
- Starts to offer lots of rosé or
- sometimes of sherry (7).
- Dance for which Shakespeare wrote this? (7).
- A plaintive song, say, in the old style (5).
- Pit-filling many in the pit encounter, we hear (9).
- Source of power used by Eliot's mill to make silk (5).
- Key singer carried by motor yacht to a diplomat's residence (7).
- Record animal on a tree-trunk for listeners (9).
- Philosopher on island displayed anger at his riches... (11).
- ... and not in an orderly manner! (3).
- Cat extremely useful to a person of influence (3).
- Bring out leader of refrain, being once such a singer (7).
- Hang on without her being upset, understand? (9).
- He makes plans, moving about on board (11).
- Margaret Herbet has one for distant communication (9).
- Preserve Sandhurst youth in West (9).
- Dreadful article written before you and I part (7).
- Law, say, restricting you in Paris (7).
- Key used by Novello coming to end of play (5).
- Place in which he produced a newspaper (5).
- German physicist mostly serving a British monarch? (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,486



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

CATAPLASM

a. A poultice or compress

b. A marine disaster

c. A twin-keeled class of yacht

PLANXTY

a. The bog myrtle

b. A subdivision of the phalanx

c. Slow Irish jig

EASSEL

a. Paint solvent

b. A nightcap

c. Eastwards

SACATHY

a. Great and good man

b. The flowering basil

c. A woolly stuff

Answers on page 16, column 1

AA ROADWATCH
For the latest AA traffic and road work information, 24 hours a day, dial 0888 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks C London (within M5 S Circ) ... 731
Motorways/M4 M1 M25 M26 M3 M4 M5 M6 M7 M8 M9 M11 M12 M13 M14 M15 M16 M17 M18 M19 M20 M21 M22 M23 M24 M25 M26 M27 M28 M29 M30 M31 M32 M33 M34 M35 M36 M37 M38 M39 M40 M41 M42 M43 M44 M45 M46 M47 M48 M49 M50 M51 M52 M53 M54 M55 M56 M57 M58 M59 M500
National motorways West Country ... 737
Wales ... 739
Scotland ... 740
East Anglia ... 741
Northeast England ... 742
North West England ... 743
Scotland ... 744
Northern Ireland ... 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheaper rate) and 44p per minute at all other times

WEATHER

Another very windy day with gale or severe gale force winds over most of the British Isles. The strongest winds will be in the north and west and will ease later in the day. There will be a mixture of sunshine and showers in most parts, with the showers heaviest and most frequent in the north and west. The showers will fall as sleet or snow in Scotland and over high ground. Outlook: staying windy and unsettled

ABROAD

AROUND BRITAIN
Sun Rain hrs in °C Max
Aberdeen 17 1 7 15 10
Anglesey 17 1 7 15 10
Belfast 21 1 7 15 10
Blackpool 20 1 7 15 10
Bognor Regis 20 1 7 15 10
Brighton 20 1 7 15 10
Bristol 20 1 7 15 10
Cardiff 20 1 7 15 10
Clacton 20 1 7 15 10
Dover 20 1 7 15 10
Douglas 20 1 7 15 10
Edinburgh 20 1 7 15 10
Exmouth 11 1 7 15 10
Falmouth 11 1 7 15 10
Glasgow 11 1 7 15 10
Guernsey 11 1 7 15 10
Hastings 11 1 7 15 10
Jersey 11 1 7 15 10
Kirkcudbright 11 1 7 15 10
Knock 11 1 7 15 10
Leeds 11 1 7 15 10
Lerwick 11 1 7 15 10
London 11 1 7 15 10
Loughborough 11 1 7 15 10
Liverpool 11 1 7 15 10
Luton 11 1 7 15 10
Newcastle 11 1 7 15 10
Newquay 11 1 7 15 10
Nottingham 11 1 7 15 10
Plymouth 12 1 7 15 10
Poole 12 1 7 15 10
Scarborough 12 1 7 15 10
Sheffield 12 1 7 15 10
St. Ives 11 1 7 15 10
St. Mary's 11 1 7 15 10
St. Peter Port 11 1 7 15 10
St. Helena 11 1 7 15 10
Stornoway 11 1 7 15 10
Swindon 11 1 7 15 10
Teeside 11 1 7 15 10
Torbay 11 1 7 15 10
Truro 11 1 7 15 10
Weymouth 11 1 7 15 10
Wick 11 1 7 15 10
These are Tuesday's figures

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0888 500 followed by the appropriate code.
Greater London ... 701
Devon & Cornwall ... 702
Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire ... 703
Beds, Bucks, Avon, Som ... 704
Boro, South & E. Eng ... 705
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs ... 706
West Mid & Shropshire ... 707
Shrops, Herefs & Warks ... 708
Cumbria & Lake District ... 709
S W Scotland ... 710
East Midlands ... 711
Lincs & Humberside ... 712
Dyfed & Powys ... 713
Gwent & Gwynedd ... 714
Wales ... 715
W & S Yorks & Dales ... 716
N E England ... 717
Cumbria & Lake District ... 718
S W Scotland ... 719
W Central Scotland ... 720
Eas & Fife/Lothian & Borders ... 721
E Central Scotland ... 722
W & S Highlands ... 723
N W Scotland ... 724
Cairngorms, Orkney & Shetland ... 725
Northern Ireland ... 726

STORMY

London 3.57 pm to 8.08 am
Bristol 4.07 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 4.41 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 4.51 pm to 8.51 am
Penzance 4.26 pm to 8.21 am

YESTERDAY

London 3.57 pm to 8.08 am
Bristol 4.07 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 4.41 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 4.51 pm to 8.51 am
Penzance 4.26 pm to 8.21 am

LIGHTING-UP

London 3.57 pm to 8.08 am
Bristol 4.07 pm to 8.15 am
Edinburgh 4.41 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 4.51 pm to 8.51 am
Penzance 4.26 pm to 8.21 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	PM
London Bridge	6.26	6.0			

BUSINESS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 27 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Auditors move to curb fudging accounts

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE accountancy profession is to set up a body designed to stop companies exploiting loopholes in accountancy regulations to dress up their accounts. Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the new Financial Reporting Council, is expected to announce soon a division in the council, termed the emerging or urgent issues task force.

The move, one of the most significant by the FRC, is aimed at preventing companies starting accounting techniques off their own back. The FRC is acting after controversies over brand valuation and off-balance-sheet financing, which spread in the absence of rulings by the authorities setting accounting standards.

Typically, one company may persuade its auditors on the basis of counsel's opinion to accept a creative new form of accounting. This is taken as a precedent by other companies and their auditors without the practice being approved officially.

The FRC wants to prevent ideas used by one company being taken as a precedent. The task force will operate under the FRC umbrella alongside the Accounting Standards Board and the review panel, which aims to monitor and enforce the use of correct standards in company accounts.

When a new accounting technique is used by a public company, it will be referred as soon as possible to the task force, which will give guidance to other companies. The aim is to indicate the FRC's approach to the new technique, pending full examination and acceptance or rejection.

Small firms want more investment

INVESTMENT is the key to economic recovery in the new year, according to Britain's 250 small business organisations represented by the National Chamber of Trade. The chamber has presented a series of ideas for the Chancellor's spring Budget. It believes inflation will fall by the middle of next year if investment is encouraged as follows:

- A tax-free investment reserve for development.
- Extension of development allowances to retail stores and service buildings.
- Raising the threshold for small firms' corporation tax.
- Extension of the Business Expansion Scheme to enable proprietors to invest in their own businesses.
- Switching education costs to central taxation to cut poll tax and business rate demands.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8750 (-0.0090)
German mark 2.8875 (+0.0021)
Exchange index 92.7 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1678.9 (-9.5)
FT-SE 100 2156.3 (-8.1)
New York Dow Jones 2635.64 (+14.35)*

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 14%
3-month Interbank: 13% - 13%
3-month eligible bills: 13% - 13%
US Prime Rate: 10%
Federal Funds: 6%*
3-month Treasury Bills: 8.48% - 4.8%
30-year bonds: 10.4% - 10.4%*

CURRENCIES

London: £1.0750
New York: \$1.8750
E: 1.8750
S: 1.8750
\$: 1.8750
F: 1.8750
Yen: 254.81
Ecu: 82.31
Sdr: 1.45
£: 1.0750
GOLD

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) \$26.70 bbl

* Denotes Monday's close
Denotes latest trading price

CBI urges Newton to abandon sick pay changes

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE government should withdraw proposed legislation changing statutory sick pay arrangements, the Confederation of British Industry says today. Business leaders argue that the planned law will disrupt companies' operations and could, in the long term, add £1 billion to employers' annual costs.

CBI leaders, who claim that separate government measures could lead to the loss of up to £9 a week for three million people next year because of changes in sick pay rates, say that Tony Newton, the social security secretary, should withdraw the statutory sick pay bill before it reaches its committee stage in the House of Lords on January 14. Privately, some CBI leaders

believe the bill may be withdrawn though publicly the government insisted yesterday that there was no prospect of such a move.

Business leaders are angry that they were not consulted about the bill. They are also annoyed because they believe the bill was rushed through its Commons stages in a week, when public attention was focused on the contest for the leadership of the Conservative party.

Under the terms of the bill, which was introduced with the autumn statement last month, Mr Newton intends to change the system, under which employers can, if necessary, deduct 100 per cent of amounts paid out in statutory sick pay from their national insurance contributions and PAYE.

The bill proposes to alter this rate to 80

per cent, though the government is to reduce employers' national insurance contribution rates so that any overall additional cost to employers resulting from the changes is substantially reduced.

In addition to the bill, the government is altering the threshold of the lower of the two levels of sick pay, which the government says will help protect the lower paid. The two changes will reduce public spending by about £280 million, and employers' national insurance contributions will be reduced by more than £200 million.

The CBI says that the changes will place a burden on employers, create uncertainty and delay moves by companies towards improving private occupational sick pay schemes, since they will feel they are

paying twice for sick pay while receiving only a reduced return from the statutory redundancy rebate scheme in the Eighties, which was fully paid for by national insurance contributions but from which the benefits have been removed. If that happens to statutory sick pay, the CBI says, employers could face additional costs of at least £1 billion a year.

CBI leaders believe that a further proposal in the bill, which would allow the government to vary the 80 per cent rate without further primary legislation, is the thin end of the wedge and indicates further changes.

Mr Price said: "We see no reason in logic why one should substitute approximate justice for precise justice unless there is some further proposal in mind."

The CBI believes that the statutory sick

pay scheme could go the way of the redundancy rebate scheme in the Eighties, which was fully paid for by national insurance contributions but from which the benefits have been removed. If that happens to statutory sick pay, the CBI says, employers could face additional costs of at least £1 billion a year.

Mr Newton has so far rejected the CBI's arguments, and the social security department said in a statement: "The government has no plans to withdraw the bill." Because of the growth of occupational schemes, the statutory sick pay rates bear no relation to the money received by most employees. The department said: "The bill makes a modest shift in the balance of provision for short-term sickness between the state and business."

ALAN WELLER

Icahn anger as Pan Am shuns merger talks

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

TALKS over the \$370 million merger between Pan American Corporation and TWA, the rival airlines, looked on the brink of collapse last night amid a wave of allegations and bickering. The dispute was prompted by the failure of Pan Am executives to attend Christmas Eve merger talks with TWA, followed by TWA learning from newspaper reports that Pan Am is poised to sell its Boston-New York-Washington commuter shuttle route.

Analysts say any permanent breakdown of discussions would mean that the new key to Pan Am's survival would be the sale of its London routes to United Airlines in a deal worth \$400 million.

The \$150 million proceeds expected from the sale of the East Coast shuttle would serve only as petty cash to buy more time for the struggling airline while American and British regulators argue over whether they will approve an ownership change of the Heathrow routes.

In what Pan Am has described as a list of "rambling thoughts", Carl Icahn, TWA's chairman and chief executive, says Pan Am's decision to sell the shuttle without discussion "demonstrates your lack of good faith interest in negotiating the merger of our airlines."

Mr Icahn warns Thomas Plaskett, Pan Am's chairman:

"I urge you and your board to consider carefully your next step before you destroy the possibility of a Pan Am-TWA combination which might well be your airline's only hope."

Pan Am said last night: "The ball's in Mr Icahn's court. As far as we are concerned we are still talking but we are waiting for him to give us some firm proposals. We put the shuttle up for sale some months ago, I cannot see why this comes as a surprise to Mr Icahn. I cannot comment on reports it has been sold."

According to those close to the talks, Pan Am is thought to be ready to sell the shuttle to a combination of PacificCorp, the \$5 billion mining company based in Portland, Oregon, which will put up the money, and Northwest Airlines, the private debt-laden carrier that would run it.

The letter discloses the two have been talking for almost 2½ months. On October 18, TWA offered Pan Am between \$100 million and \$125 million in a bridging loan as a first step towards a merger.

Mr Icahn goes on: "After reading the article on today's (December 24) edition of *The Wall Street Journal*, I believe I now understand why today's meeting was cancelled. You (Mr Plaskett) appear to be continuing on the same path that you followed when you sold your London routes to United for a price that has now been clearly demonstrated to be less than fair market value."

"It appears that you will go to any extremes to avoid the merger with us that you say in your letter would be advantageous."

Both companies subsequently changed their names, with Metalbox becoming MB and Carnaud becoming CMB.

Mr Descarpentries attributed the expected decline in

PROFITS at CMB Packaging are likely to fall in the current year, according to Jean-Marie Descarpentries, the company's president.

The company was formed in October 1989 by a merger of the Metalbox packaging business and the Carnaud company of France. Net attributable profits are now expected to drop about 10 per cent from Fr1.13 billion in 1989 to about Fr1 billion.

"Our estimations today call for a result of the order of Fr1 billion for 1990," M Descarpentries said.

On Christmas Eve, CMB's shares, which are listed in London, fell 25p to 950p. They had reached 900p at one stage.

M Descarpentries attributed the expected decline in

Group, and the enlarged Carnaud becoming CMB Packaging. However, merging the businesses has cost more than expected, M Descarpentries said.

The size of these costs was not entirely foreseeable. This was the worst surprise of the marriage with Metalbox," M Descarpentries said.

"As worst, we had expected Fr400 million for the years," M Descarpentries said.

Nigel Whittaker, director of Kingfisher, said the company would not be able to quantify how sales had been affected until today.

Texas, B&Q, MFI and Mag-net were among the retailers that took large advertisements in newspapers on Boxing Day

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The Monopolies and Mergers Commission would like to hear from any person with information or views on the maximum level of airport charges that the airport companies should be able to levy at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports during the five years commencing on 1 April 1992.

The Commission would also welcome information or views on whether each of the airport companies has pursued a course of conduct during the last twelve months which has operated or might be expected to operate against the public interest.

The Commission would like to receive evidence in writing by 31 January 1991 to be sent to: The Reference Secretary (BAI), Monopolies and Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street, London WC2A 2JT.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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For an informal discussion please contact Charles Barnes, District Information Manager on 081 574 2444 Ext. 5094. Application forms and job descriptions available from the Unit Personnel Department, St Bernard's Wing, Ealing Hospital, Uxbridge Road, Southall Middlesex UB1 3QU. Tel. 081 574 2444 Ext. 5185.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 24.1.1991.

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INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SYDNEY AUSTRALIA

CITY PLANNER

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Applications are invited for the position of City Planner. This position enjoys Head of Department status. The Council is organised into a number of departments and is open to applications. This includes the monitoring of building works and the preparation of local environmental and urban design studies and the preparation of local environmental and development control plans.

The Planning Department, in excess of eighty officers and is located within Town Hall House, Sydney, Australia.

In addition to providing professional service to the Council, the Department also services the Central Sydney Planning Committee.

QUALIFICATIONS and EXPERIENCE: Applicants must possess an appropriate university qualification and be able to demonstrate proven management capabilities.

A detailed job description is available upon request at Council's Human Resources Department (phone 612 265 9167).

REMOUNTERATION: A package in the vicinity of A\$15,000 will be negotiated inclusive of a vehicle and superannuation component. The appointment will be made under contract for a maximum period of five years and will be subject to annual performance review.

Applications should be lodged with the Director of Human Resources, Box 1991, G.R.O., Sydney 2001, quoting the position reference No. 218/90 by 18 January, 1991.

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Fields of dreams which are being lost for ever

Britain's outdoor sporting heritage is under threat as some of the finest acres of playing fields are being sold by local authorities.

John Goodbody finds that despite government attempts at protection through a national register of playing fields, the situation is worsening

With many local and education authorities disposing of assets — to avoid being charge-capped, they claim — the number of playing fields being sold for redevelopment is showing a drastic increase.

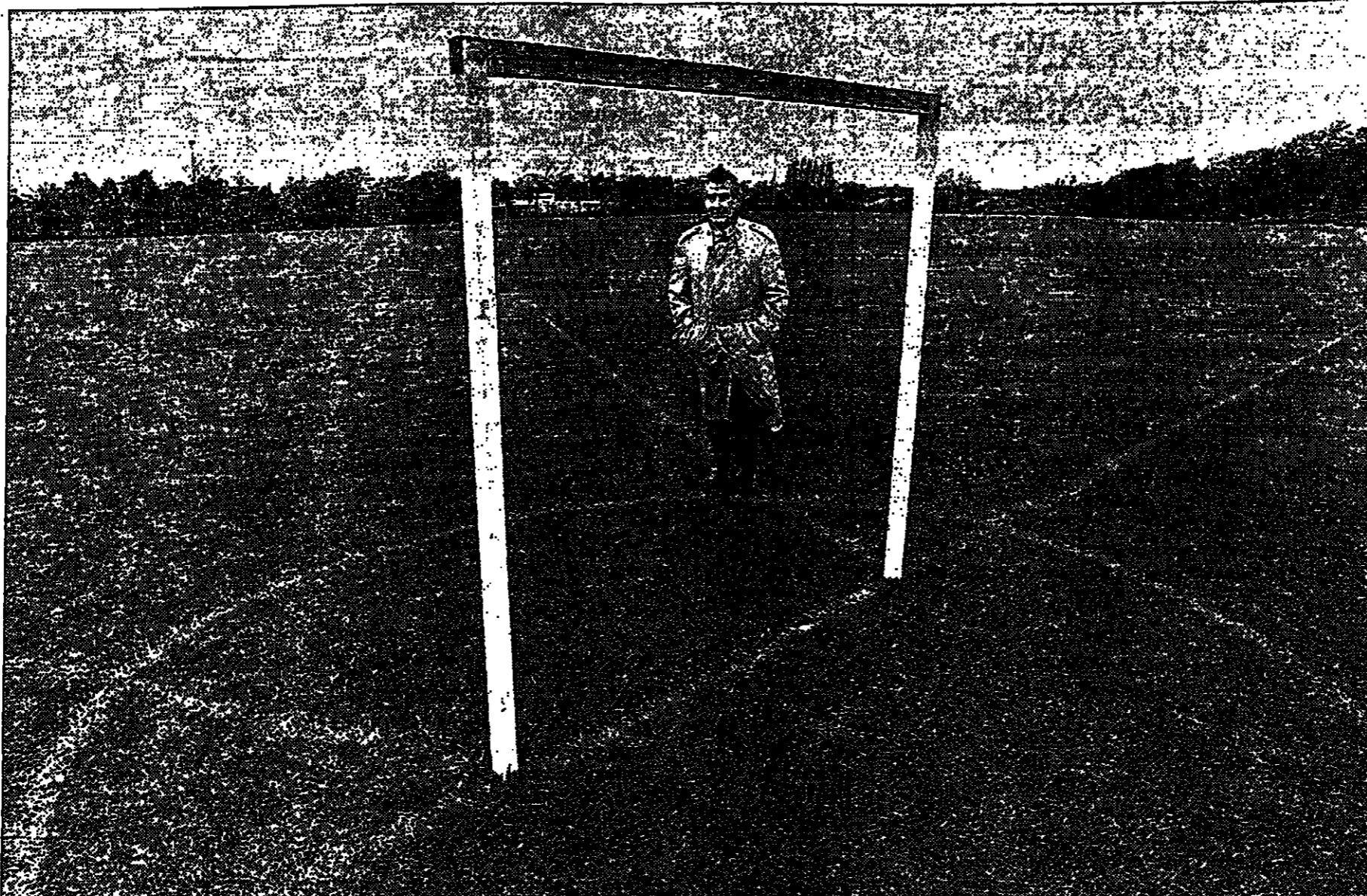
Only two months after the government emphasized the importance of retaining adequate open space in urban areas, the situation is actually deteriorating, with many sites already doomed and scores more under threat.

Don Earley, the fields administrator of the National Playing Fields Association (NPPA), said: "In the last fortnight I have become aware of possible sales in Essex, Surrey, Staffordshire, Kent, Nottinghamshire, Middlesex, Hertfordshire and Liverpool. This is not a new trend but recently it has become particularly bad."

Nigel Hook, senior technical officer of the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR), which represents the national governing bodies, agreed. "We are besieged now by sports clubs concerned with the loss of playing fields. Local authorities have received less money from central government for the rate support grant and they are having to sell off their holdings of land."

"This is a disastrous trend, particularly for a minister for sport committed to assisting young people. We hope that the government will act on its white paper, *This Common Inheritance*. However, in many cases, it is like closing the sports field gate after the bulldozer has already started work."

On October 16, Robert Atkins, the minister for sport, announced a planning policy guidance (PPG) note as a follow-up to the government's own white paper, published on September 23. In a written parliamentary answer, he said: "The government attaches



Waiting for the bulldozers: Sir Trevor Jones, a former leader of Liverpool Council, at the city's Jericho Lane playing fields which have been sold off for development

great importance to the retention of adequate recreational open space in urban areas. The planning system needs to ensure that adequate land is, and continues to be, allocated for organised sport and recreation."

The draft PPG asks local planning authorities to ensure that their policies address local needs, protect valuable sites and identify sites for new provision."

Yet in Liverpool, a city synonymous with football, nine outdoor facilities have been sold off since April 1989 and a further 14 are up for sale. Even in 1988, the city had only 1,114 acres of playing fields, 58 per cent of what the NPPA considered was the minimum it should have had for its size.

Sir Trevor Jones, a former Liberal Democrat leader of the council, said: "We have some of the finest acres for sport in the country but these are being sold off. According to the treasurer's report, the council has to sell £48 million of assets in the current year."

He points out that, before the 1980 Planning and Land Act, it was illegal to sell playing fields unless there was compensatory provision in the same area. However, this clause was deleted. "As a result, a Labour council has ruthlessly exploited Tory legislation," he said.

However, David Algar, the city council's assistant estates surveyor, pointed out: "Some of the playing fields are attached to schools and the director of recreation has assessed the need for them. This need has reduced over the years. The fields are not being used enough. So a rationalisation has taken place."

He said that the city had created over 1,000 acres of new open space, far more than it had disposed of. This consisted of a variety of terrain, including parks, although he accepted that only some of the new open space was playing fields.

In south London, King's College has sold a 13.5-acre site, including Dulwich Hamlet FC's ground, to Sainsbury's for a supermarket development at an estimated cost of £25 million.

Originally, Southwark council unanimously turned down the proposal, which was opposed by three local MPs, from different parties. However, new plans, which included funding for the community, were submitted. On July 30, the development committee, after being warned in the council minutes that Sainsbury's was likely to withdraw the benefits for the locality if the application went to appeal, approved the plans.

Dulwich Hamlet will be re-housed in a new stadium and Sainsbury's will also provide public open space, alongside the large car park servicing the supermarket. A spokesperson for J

Sainsbury's, the company which won an award in 1989 as the greenest grocer of the year, said: "The need for a modern supermarket, an area of public open space and a new stadium and pitch for Dulwich Hamlet outweighs the need for private, under-utilised playing fields."

Members of King's College medical school will now play on Sainsbury's own pitches in south London, using facilities more convenient for them.

Yet, despite the practicality of the deal, the fact remains that more than eight acres of public playing fields will be lost on an inner-city site.

In Yorkshire, the Leeds School Sports Association, which has

difficulty in paying travelling expenses and keeping its grounds running, is seeking permission from the Charity Commissioners to sell the 3½-acre Archie Gordon playing field, only a mile from the city centre and used by local representative teams and Milford amateur rugby league club. The site would be redeveloped.

Councillor John Illingworth pointed out that even if other facilities could be used, this was of little benefit to children living in inner-city areas who did not want to, or were unable to, travel far from the vicinity of their homes.

In Kingston, Surrey, where the royal borough has to raise £100 million over the next four years, 14 sites, either owned by the education committee or land in which the committee has an interest, are under threat. Campaigners say half of them are used for recreational purposes.

However, Paul Clokier, the Conservative leader of the council, insists that only one playing field site is affected and that the council has, in fact, bought an island on the Thames and 110 acres for sports facilities. Public meetings and protests are just beginning.

Gyles Brandreth, the NPPA chairman, said that the issue was becoming more prominent because people were more determined to make their views heard. He welcomed the government decision, made two months ago, to have a national register of playing fields and the pledge from the Minister for Sport that it would be kept up to date.

Although many local authorities say that school playing fields are under-used this is largely because of the decline in the population of school age in the 1980s. Official forecasts are for the number of schoolchildren to rise by 800,000 over the next ten years. But playing fields lost to developers in 1991, are unlikely to be recovered in 2000.

Brandreth also cited the correlation between unsocial behaviour and the lack of good sports facilities. "This is a quality of life issue. Do away with good facilities and you increase the social cost."

He said: "It is the 300 children killed on the roads each year, the majority were playing on the streets."

He said: "It is an easy option to sell a playing field. But there is a cost in human and social terms. It is a false economy."

SPORTS LETTERS

There is more to football than goals alone

From Mr Lionel Robinson

Sir, I question whether the Times' leader writer ("Another ball game", December 14) appreciates the pleasure experienced by many football enthusiasts in the physical and psychological encounter between a vibrant amateur force and a well-organised defensive formation. It is not goals alone that attract. Let football be chess-like by all means, but it is no less pleasurable for that and preferable by far to the pinball, pop-football proposed.

This does not mean that one is not receptive to alterations to the laws of the game, but only if such changes facilitate enhancement of skills. Goals are the cherries on the cake but the team is in individual skills and the blending of these skills to produce smooth, effective teamwork.

By all means let us experiment with a marginally larger goal — say 8 metres x 2½ metres, giving an area approx 1 per cent greater than the traditional 8 yards x 8 ft — yet encouraging less aerial work, lower trajectories and consequently more foot skills.

Yet again a law deterring backpassing to the goalkeeper from outside the penalty box would not only reduce time-wasting but equally encourage players to develop skills to extricate themselves from expected or difficult situations.

Change by all means if it helps produce a more open game — goals or no goals — but please don't let us succumb to the pressures of the media and commercialism for radical alterations to produce high scoring games.

The structure of the game should be preserved for the delight of future generations.

Yours faithfully,

LIONEL ROBINSON,
35 Belize Road, NW6.

From Rev. Courtney Atkin

Sir, Why on earth all this bother about bigger goals, more players

in a team, and so on, when the problem could be solved with a pot of paint?

The extension of a transverse line of each penalty area extended to the touchlines would create an area at each end of the pitch containing within itself the existing penalty area. (For brevity's sake let me call this the Atkin area.)

Offides at the kick-off and at subsequent restarts from the centre spot (after half-time and after the scoring of a goal) both teams must be as at present, wholly within their own half. Thereafter a player can only be offside in the opposing team's Atkin area. Result, first, a whole new playing area is opened up which is not subjected to the purely negative offside trap, one of the root causes of malaise in the game; second, more goals.

Passing back to the goalkeeper, only be allowed from within the Atkin area. A player may not take the ball from outside to inside the Atkin area and then pass it directly to the goalkeeper; if this is what he wants to do, it must include passing the ball via another player.

This is a crazy law which forces a second attractive feature of football would be lost with larger goals. Football is again unique in that a team which performs better will nearly always win. A rugby team camped in the opponent's 22 can rarely help but score, but in football a team can dominate a game and lose. An outclassed team can plan to defend stoutly, only to be lucky and sneak a win. How else can the Faerie Islands beat Australia? If the rules were enlarged, territorial dominance and possession would inevitably lead to goals. The better team would always win and football would be diminished as a sport.

A second attractive feature of football would be lost with larger goals. Football is again unique in that a team which attacks is often paradoxically more likely to concede a goal. A team which falls behind will naturally push an extra man forward to achieve an equaliser.

However, at the higher levels this tactic increases the chances of an equaliser much less than it increases the chances of the side in front scoring again. This is because a team is more likely to score with two forwards against three defenders than with six forwards against seven defenders, even if the ball is in its own half.

This breakaway style of play, used by Nottingham Forest, is still attractive because it depends on speed and skill. It turns the opposition forward, secure in the knowledge that skilful defence can always shut out an attack. Bigger goals and easier scoring would eliminate this security and create static games with massed attack facing massed defence.

Other sports do not have the tactical subtlety of football. A losing team in rugby tries to attack and in doing so successfully, is more likely to draw level. In football, to commit the team to attack carries risks — this explains the excessive caution of teams in recent years.

In addition larger goals would elevate the importance of power shooting above the skills of passing, ball control and using limited space which are the real joys of the game. They would also promote use of the tedious offside trap as it would be crucial to keep opponents playing far away from goal.

The incentive for larger, and therefore more, goals over-emphasises the end product of the sport at the expense of the fundamental reasons for the game's appeal, its unpredictability and reward of basic ball skills. Do potential law-changers realise this?

Yours faithfully,
W. A. METAXA,
Flat 12,
25 Courfield Road, SW7.

From Mr John O'Byrne
Sir, Has any thought been given to reducing the size of the ball?

Yours etc.,
JOHN O'BYRNE,
2 Mount Argus Court,
Harold's Cross,
Dublin 6.

Scino also says that the ball may be struck, sent or thrown towards the opponent's line. These are terms which are used in describing games of tennis and it may well be that the ball was struck or thrown forwards, but the text is not explicit that this refers to throwing and not to

regarded as inferior actually plays better than the team expected to dominate. These sports lack an element of unpredictability because the side which performs better will nearly always win. A rugby team camped in the opponent's 22 can rarely help but score, but in football a team can dominate a game and lose. An outclassed team can plan to defend stoutly, only to be lucky and sneak a win. How else can the Faerie Islands beat Australia? If the rules were enlarged, territorial dominance and possession would inevitably lead to goals. The better team would always win and football would be diminished as a sport.

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Fortunately, this is not the case. The law states that you can have six reserves on the bench, and if the team suffers up to three injuries, then each injured player can be replaced. If a fourth man is injured, the law effectively inflicts the same punishment on the team as that of having a man off.

It is a crazy law which forces a side in such a predicament to conform. And, even with much crowd noise, visual signalling should cover the out-of-the-ordinary situation. For most games, the much more sensible approach is for the spoken code should suffice.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GULLICK,
1 Heathrow Road,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Grounds for rugby lawmakers

From Mr Christopher Lane

Sir, Although three replacements are now permitted in international and divisional rugby union matches, the substitutions can take place only if the event of injury confirmed by a doctor. The absurd possibility remains that if four players get injured, only three

can be replaced.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LANE,
Flat 3, Bolney Court,
Portsmouth Road,
Surbiton, Surrey.

From Mr David Gullick

Sir, Rugby union's lawmakers should cut out one increasing cause of time-wasting. I refer to the habit of hookers, after the lineout has formed, walking infield, ball in hand, to take orders from the pack leader about the throw-in.

Surely "standing orders" could obviate some of this conning. And, even with much crowd noise, visual signalling should cover the out-of-the-ordinary situation. For most games, the much more sensible approach is for the spoken code should suffice.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GULLICK,
1 Heathrow Road,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Other changes

From Mr George Harris

Sir, Now that the football authorities are considering moving the goalposts might not be the right time for other sports and pastimes to consider changes?

Bridge players, for instance, might consider introducing a fourteenth card — a zero per cent. Rugby league teams who do not gain a try in a game, secure in the knowledge that skilful defence can always shut out an attack. Bigger goals and easier scoring would eliminate this security and create static games with massed attack facing massed defence.

Finally, another foot of height on the net in tennis would surely introduce some nice wristy, spin serves, brightening the game for viewers as much as does the introduction of an Eddie Hemmings in Test cricket.

In rugby union the size of today's players is quite terrifying to one who, 50 years ago, was big enough to play as a prop forward at 11st. How about a 12st limit?

Ice hockey players clearly

need a larger puck, if only so that it can be seen on television.

Golf presents an interesting situation. Do spectators want to see more putts holed out or fewer? If near-misses are the stuff of thrills then a smaller diameter hole is called for, but if golf is to follow football and seek more goals then a bucket-sized hole with padded sides would offer the chance of pitching in more often.

Finally, another foot of height on the net in tennis would surely introduce some nice wristy, spin serves, brightening the game for viewers as much as does the introduction of an Eddie Hemmings in Test cricket.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HARRIS,
28 Cherry Tree Drive,
Brixton, Plymouth, Devon.

Roots of the game

From Dr Roger Morgan

Sir, With reference to the shape of the ball in the game of calcio (Sports Letters, December 20), I can add that the engraving by Giacomo Franco of 1610 and the drawing by Jan van Grembrouck of the eighteenth century in the collection of the Museo Correr at Venice both show a spherical ball.

This letter also mentions spherical balls used in the game as prizes. These are widely known as prizes for jeu de paume, that is games of handball scoring in the same way as tennis. They are mentioned in Flanders in the early seventeenth century, and are still given as prizes for such games in Friesland and Belgium. The balls used to be placed in the parish church of the winning team, but they disappeared at the time of the French Revolution. They are not generally found in Britain, so the origins of the Silver Ball of Raturity in the museum at Perth are something of a mystery.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER MORGAN,
39 Wingate Way, Cambridge.

Jockey Club should act

From Mr M. J. Campbell

Sir, John Goodbody (Comment, December 17) was right to draw attention to the harmful effects which athletes inflict upon themselves by over-training. There is one brand of sportsman he did not mention and to which his comments especially apply.

Besides indulging in tiring exercises, many of them have frequent sauna baths and exist on a starvation diet in order to reduce their weight to the required level. In consequence the lives of many jockeys are a misery and the ill-effects of this lifestyle in later life are very serious.

Surely "standing orders" could obviate some of this conning. And, even with much crowd noise, visual signalling should cover the out-of-the-ordinary situation. For most games, the much more sensible approach is for the spoken code should suffice.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GULLICK,
1 Heathrow Road,
Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Owners' subsidy

From Mr J. B. Williamson

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan prove they will not surrender title without fight

By KEITH MACKLIN

St Helens 15

Wigan 28

THREE tries in ten frantic minutes in a second half of fluctuating fortunes enabled Wigan, the champions, to restore their faltering Stones Bitter competition challenge by moving into third place.

Wigan had to come from behind as St Helens led 7-2 midway through the first half and 15-14 early in the second half. St Helens dominated the early minutes of both halves in such a way that Wigan's margin of victory came as a shock.

The St Helens majority in the crowd of just over 13,000 vented their spleen on the referee, Robin Whitfield, when he allowed Wigan's final try by Hanley after the Wigan movement had twice seemed to break down near the line, only for Whitfield to wave on play.

The seemingly unthinkable prospect of relegation is a possibility for St Helens. They had the outstanding forwards in the powerful prop, Ward, the

and the industrious and skilful Cooper at loose forward, but they seem unable to maintain any momentum or consistency in attack or defence.

The teams produced fine, open entertainment despite the ferocious wind which took over from torrential rain. It was Wigan's greater staying power which enabled them to shrug off the St Helens' second-half revival with the 14-point blitz into the teeth of the wind.

St Helens scored an excellent first try with Forber and Cooper opening the way for Loughlin to dive over. Loughlin added the goal, and when Cooper dropped a goal minutes later St Helens seemed comfortably on top.

However, the former All Black, Botica, recently returned from long-term injury, landed two penalties, and St Helens took the lead as the mighty Ward burst open a gap and Bishop sent in Veivers.

At 15-14, St Helens again seemed in command, but the situation changed rapidly. Bishop threw a careless pass inside his own 22-metre area, Hanley scooped it up, and Edwards sent in Veivers.

Goulding, deputising at scrum half for the injured Gregory, sent a long pass to the wing for Myers to dive over, and Wigan sealed victory with that scrappy final try to which Botica added the goal.

SCORERS: St Helens: T. Veivers, G. Loughlin, G. Cooper, R. Ward; Tries: Botica, Edwards, Iro, Myers, Hanley, Veivers. 14. St Helens: G. Connolly, T. Rose, P. Veivers, P. Loughlin, L. Curtis, J. Griffiths, P. Bishop, S. Evans (sub: J. Neale), P. Grawes, K. Ward, B. Dwyer, P. Forber, C. Cooper, D. Myers, K. Iro (sub: F. Botica); S. Edwards, P. Goulding (sub: S. Stoddard), E. Hanley. Referee: R. Whieldon (Wigan).

This staggered St Helens and Betts brushed aside four

unattempted tackles to send in Edwards, Botica's goal making it 14-7 to Wigan at half-time.

St Helens resumed full of fire and purpose, and with the wind behind them, loughlin kicked two penalties, and St Helens took the lead as the mighty Ward burst open a gap and Bishop sent in Veivers.

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Unavailing effort as John Brown attempts to stay aboard Copperite during the Betts' Fetham Novices' Chase at Kempton yesterday

home, on the far side of the course, when about four lengths ahead of the favourite.



COPPERITE

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Side-stepping nimbly, Desert Orchid galloped on strongly up the straight to beat Toby Tobias by 12 lengths with The Fellow further five lengths away third. Celtic Shot seven lengths away in fourth place, was the only other of the nine starters to complete the course.

A tall call was withdrawn at the beginning of the afternoon because of the changed ground conditions. Richard Dunwoody, winning his second King George VI Chase at a rain-soaked Cheltenham yesterday.

David Elsworth, already as much the stuff of legend for his extraordinary training skills as Desert Orchid for his career of such long-lived brilliance, brushed away an involuntary brush in the winner's enclosure. "You just can't help it. This is a magic horse. There is nothing flashy about it. He's just so tough. He jumped and he stayed. He was flat out on his feet in the last half mile but so were the others."

The enormous crowd gave vent to spontaneous applause as the nation's idol entered the paddock, then cheered their heads off at the finish and gave three cheers for the flying grey around the unsaddling enclosure, cared nothing for statistics.

But just for the record, in winning 33 of his 62 starts, the year 12-year-old has covered 155 miles over hurdles and fences and earned £64,584 in wins and place prize-money for his syndicate of four owners, of which Richard Burridge, the father of Desert Orchid's breeder, Jimmy, is the largest.

"Desert Orchid is a genius and he has said all along that the horse was back to his best and would win," said Burridge. "Today was the tribute to the horse himself, to David, Rodney Bolt, Janice Coyle and to all the team at Wetherby. We're hoping to be back here for a fifth win next year."

The exceptional merit of this win at Kempton, which suits Desert Orchid so well, can be gauged by the fact that Toby Tobias was only narrowly beaten in last season's Gold Cup and that The Fellow is one of the best chasers in France.

"Without wanting to sound big-headed, I'm sure he'll improve further than this. It has been struggle to get him right," said Elsworth. "And although he isn't as good at Cheltenham, we might well go for the Gold Cup again. In the immediate future there are races like the Victor Chandler at Ascot and the Cheltenham Festival at Sandown."

The Grand National is definitely not on Desert Orchid's race card double with Sparkling Flame and Remittance Man and the high-class performances of Wonder Man when winning the Royal Garden Hotel Handicap Hurdle under top weight of 12 stone for Jenny Pitman.

In the Betts' Fetham Novices' Chase, Morley Street proved a disappointing favourite, once again jumping to the front to the third last. "He ran out of petrol in the soft ground first time out," said a delighted Mark Pitman. "It will be a different story at Cheltenham."

The bookmakers unanimously concurred with the jockey's summing up in making Toby Tobias favourite for the Gold Cup at 4-1 with Desert Orchid generally on offer at 6-1.

The disappointment of the race was the running of Celtic Show for whom heavy backing

home, on the far side of the course, when about four lengths ahead of the favourite.

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Progressive Fidway set to strengthen champion claim

By MANDARIN

FIDWAY can enhance his Champion Hurdle claims by taking the Top Rank Christmassy Hurdle at Kempton Park today.

This season, the Tim Thomson Jones-trained gelding showed he is a worthy contender for championship honours, especially now that the title holder, Kribensis, will not be able to defend his crown through injury, when successful in the Gerry Neilden Hurdle at Newbury.

On that occasion the hand-some five-year-old was far from fully fit. Nevertheless, he showed his superior class when beating the race-fit Atilal, who received 6lb, by 1½ lengths.

Using Atilal as a link with Deep Sensation, my selection has the beating of that rival. A more likely danger, however, may come from Fidway, who has been very unlucky not to have taken this race in the past.

Despite his advancing years, this tough little chestnut showed he had retained his enthusiasm when capturing the 3½ mile Youngmans Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot by three



Fidway: high hopes of double at Kempton

lengths from Ryde Again.

Mutare, who will also be attempting to stake his claim for championship honours, has been set a tough task for his English hurdling debut.

Now with Nicky Henderson, the five-year-old has won his last three hurdle races in Ireland. In his most recent outing, at Punchestown, he showed useful form when beating Trapper John, the winner of last season's Waterford Crystal Staying Hurdle at the Cheltenham festival, by two lengths.

Uncle Ernie, the impressive winner of his two novice chases, can establish himself as the leading juvenile two-miler in the country by winning the Universal Studios Florida Novices' Chase.

Jimmy Fitzgerald, the five-year-old's trainer, has already indicated that the gelding is a worthy contender for Ards Trophy at Cheltenham next March.

The Malton trainer can also be on the mark with Gris Et Violet in the Hard Rock Novices' Hurdle. The gelding, who is seeking a treble, was far from disgraced on his hurdling debut when runner-up to Dawson City at Wetherby last month.

Dawson City has since shown himself to be one of the best juvenile hurdlers in the north when finishing third to Hopscotch at Chepstow last Saturday.

Katabatic can reward Andrew Turnell's immense patience by winning the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Handicap Chase.

Despite missing numerous opportunities in leading contests because of the firm ground, Turnell has astutely

placed him to the advantage. Last time out, at Haydock, he took full advantage of Waterloo Boy's concession of 24lb when beating him by 1½ lengths.

A good run from Katabatic will be a significant pointer to the chance of **One More Knight**, who is napped to the Odeon Cinemas Handicap Chase. Last season, One More Knight beat Katabatic by three-quarters of a length on this track.

However, on the book he should not beat Fu's Lady today, but I feel the Pipe-trained mare has lost her way. But my selection should now be ready to open his account after his promising run at Uttoxeter where he was a respectable third to Austin Dot.

At Wetherby, **Young Snugfit** can again show his superiority over Waterloo Boy in the Castleford Chase. Last time out, at Sandown, Young Snugfit beat Waterloo Boy (gave 5lb) by 12 lengths. Today, they meet on level terms.

Young Ben can complete a double over fences by taking the Appleton Roebuck Novices' Chase for Peter Easterby. Hannon's Gran Alba, who finished sixth to Nashwan in the 1989 Derby at Epsom, has made his debut over hurdles in the Haven Chase at Sandown yesterday, and again finished sixth, beaten just over 30 lengths behind the Reg Akhurst-trained winner Gaasid.

Stink

Hannon's Gran Alba, who finished sixth to Nashwan in the 1989 Derby at Epsom, has made his debut over hurdles in the Haven

KEMPTON PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

1.25 Gris Et Violet.

1.15 Uncle Ernie.

1.45 Katabatic.

2.20 Fidway.

2.50 ONE MORE KNIGHT (nap).

3.20 Moze Tidy.

By Michael Seely

1.15 Uncle Ernie. 1.45 Katabatic. 2.50 FIT FOR FIRING (nap).

Going: good to soft

1245 HARD ROCK NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O; 24,500; 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1245 FORM FOCUS (AFRICAN SAFARI ET VIOLET (M) Mrs S Smith) 5-11-7. R Stronge 72. 2111 DUKE DE VENOME 15 (CD,F,G) (A White) M Pipe 12-5. 2021 KATHARINE 22 (M) (N) (Barney) A. T. Hannon 7-11-7. 1045 CLYWD LODGE 20 (IC,D,F,G) J. D. Tindall 10-6. 1022 HARLEQUIN LAD 26 (Union Bloodstock Ltd) K Cunningham-Brown 10-6. 1021 MILES ADVENTURE 21 (D,F,G) (Rosco) Ltd Tompkins 10-6. 1020 SILENT STORM 18 (M) Mrs T. P. Evans 7-11-7. 1020 RODDIE 12 (Tyrone) K. J. Alexander 10-6. 1019 THE PRODIGAL 15 (M) (L) (S) (L) Stirling 10-6. 1018 R HOBSTER GRUBLY 21 (M) (Barney) J. D. Tindall 10-6. 1017 BETTING: 11-4 Gris Et Violet, 7-2 Moze Tidy, 4-1 Hannon, 7-1 Katabatic, 10-1 Rhodes, 12-1 Miss Kerry, Come Home, Kingstey, Harlequin Lodge, 11-1 others.

1886: BATTING 11-0 G McCourt (5-2) 15 Tindall 15 ran.

1245 UNIVERSAL STUDIOS FLORIDA NOVICES CHASE (23,415; 2m) (7 runners)

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Arsenal extend their record start to the season with a comfortable win over Derby County while Liverpool are held to a draw

ANTHONY PHELPS

Freakish clearance by Seaman helps seal Arsenal's win

By DENNIS SIGNY

Arsenal 3
Derby County 0

THE poor weather and the dearth of public transport meant that the attendance at Highbury, 25,538, was the lowest of the season but the faithful who attended saw their side have little trouble in extending their unbeaten League sequence to 19 games and cutting Liverpool's lead at the top to four points.

Victory was achieved at some cost, though. David Rocastle, starting his first game for two months in the absence through injury of Perry Groves, broke a toe in his right foot in the first minute. Although he played on until the 59th minute, when he was substituted, he will be out of action for some weeks.

For David Seaman in the Arsenal goal the match was something of a triumph. Not only did he keep a clean sheet for the twelfth time but he also contributed to Arsenal's third goal after 78 minutes.

His wind-assisted clearance landed first bounce in the Derby penalty area. Martin Taylor, deputising for the injured Peter Shilton, managed to tip the ball onto the bar as it soared above him, only for Alan Smith to score

with a diving header from the rebound. It was Smith's ninth goal in eight games but Seaman received more acclaim from his colleagues than the centre forward.

Smith had given Arsenal the impetus of a fourth-minute lead when, after a centre from Andrei Limpar had gone over, Mark Wright, he headed wide of a hesitant Taylor.

Notwithstanding Arsenal's superiority, there was some uncertainty in their defence, where Andy Limpar took time to settle, and Dean Saunders had four chances in the first 24 minutes.

When Gary Micklewhite put him away on the right before Arsenal were off the mark, he shot wildly. Then, when fed by Callaghan who was playing his final game for Derby at the end of a three-month loan period from Aston Villa, he put a good chance wide.

"We played better in two of the three recent games we have drawn," Graham said. He was not complaining, though, that Liverpool's lead has now been reduced to four points.

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DERBY COUNTY: M Taylor, M Sage, N Pickering, P Williams (sub: J Davidson), M Wright, M Forsyth, G Micklewhite (sub: J Keaveney), S Saunders, M Harford, C Ricketts, K Callaghan.

Referee: R Pawley.

With all this was going on, Paul Davis, captaining Arsenal in the absence of Adams, was cautioned for a foul on Micklewhite. Taylor did well to hold a snap shot from Limpar and then ex-

celled himself by tipping over a fierce drive from Michael Thomas.

Arsenal's second goal after 27 minutes followed a centre from Limpar from the left that Taylor, under pressure from Davis, pushed sideways. Paul Merson, coming in from the right, reacted quickly to curve the ball over the line. Although Paul Williams scooped the ball away, the referee was well placed.

Although George Graham, the Arsenal manager, reckoned that his side played better in the second half when they tightened up in defence, there was little to rouse the crowd until Smith's late goal.

After that Merson who had an outstanding game, whether creating chances or helping out in defence, gave Smith the chance for a third goal, but he turned his shot straight to Taylor's arms.

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